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Nuclear Cooperation Meeting Scheduled in Tokyo

SK2602113894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0544 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korean officials will participate in the fifth international conference on nuclear cooperation in Asia slated for March 1-3 in Tokyo, the Science and Technology Ministry said Saturday.

The South Korean delegation, headed by Vice Science and Technology Minister Han Yong-song, will include five experts on atomic energy from the rural development administration, the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute, the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety and Samsung Medical Center. Vice Minister Han will deliver a keynote speech on South Korea's atomic energy plans, and will emphasize that his country aims to conduct nuclear consultations with other Asian countries. Han is scheduled to leave for the conference on Sunday.

In the keynote speech, Han will also tell other Asian countries that South Korea is ready to share its technology on construction and management of nuclear power plants, obtained in the process of becoming one of the top 10 users of nuclear power. He and other South Korean representatives plan to discuss cooperation on peaceful use of atomic energy in Asia.

Han is scheduled to meet with Japanese officials to talk about expanding and strengthening scientific and technological cooperation and will tour Tsukuba Science City, the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Saitama and Rokkasho-Mura radioactive waste dump.

Japan began telling other Asian countries of the need for such a conference in 1988, with the first one held in 1990. China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Australia will also attend the conference.

Asia-Pacific Environmental Meeting Scheduled

OW0403075794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0738 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—An international gathering to discuss measures to achieve environmental conservation and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region in the next century will be held in Tokyo on March 16 and 17, government officials said Friday [4 March]. The meeting will be attended by experts from Asian and Pacific countries and the United Nations, they said.

At the environment conference for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia '93) held in Chiba last June, Japan's Environment Agency pledged to draw up a report on such measures with the help of other Asia-Pacific nations and the U.N. The first meeting on the project called "ECO Asia 21 Plan" will decide on the date of release of the report while discussing concrete measures, the officials said.

Japan will tell the meeting that it wants to submit an interim report to a gathering of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to be held next year and a final report to a special U.N. General Assembly session in 1997, they said. The plan will propose policies, financial aid and international cooperation needed to maintain the environment and yet promote development in the region. The experts will draft the program after making projections for the region's future population, economic growth, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, demand for energy, state of urban areas, and environmental conservation policies, the officials said.

ROK, Japanese, Chinese, Russian Collegians Meet

SK2202002794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0016 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—Over 40 collegians from South Korea, Japan, China and Russia have gathered in Seoul from Tuesday to March 3 to promote regional camaraderie.

The gathering is the second of its kind, with the first held in Tokyo last year, and is sponsored by the Foreign Ministry. The idea was proposed by former Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and is expected to become an annual event. The aim of the gathering is to establish future-oriented relationships among four nations that were less than friendly during the Cold War era.

Participants will tour the National Assembly, the ancient Korean capital city of Kyongju, the truce village of Panmunjom and industrial sites. They will stay two nights at private homes to get acquainted with South Korean customs.

Upcoming ASEAN Meeting To Consider Security

BK0403025294 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 94 p A7

[From the "In Their Words" column by "high-ranking" Thai Foreign Ministry official Darum Sukontasap: "Asean Security Talks Are a Tool for Prosperity"]

[Text] Next week, the Thai Foreign Ministry will host a Special Meeting of Asean Senior Officials (Special SOM). The significance of this meeting is that it will be the second time in almost two years that senior officials from Asean's foreign policy, military and intelligence establishments sit together, with a full agenda, to discuss ways and means through which Asean countries could enhance their security cooperation. The first Special SOM, which was held in Manila in June 1992, fell short of its intended goals and, this time, the Asean countries are hoping that the upcoming meeting will yield more concrete results.

Asean had from the late 1970s up to the early 1990s played a leading role in bringing the Cambodia conflict to the attention of the world community. The regional organization was also instrumental in the search for a durable solution to the 13 year-old problem. Therefore, political cooperation was nothing new to the six-member grouping. In fact, critics often pointed out that Asean's strength had always been in political rather than economic cooperation, although the latter was the raison d'etre of the regional grouping when it was established in 1967.

However, in spite of Asean members' close cooperation in the political field, it was not until recently that Asean felt the need for a formal and exclusive framework for intra-Asean security consultation. The routine Asean Senior Officials Meetings (SOM), or the meetings of Permanent Secretaries for Foreign Affairs of Asean countries, which take place three or four times a year, discuss a wide variety of political-related subjects, ranging from regional political situation to economic relationship between Asean and third countries. Security issues, per se, are singled out for attention only when dictated by circumstances.

Therefore, the upcoming Special SOM in Bangkok represents Asean's new thinking. It signifies a clear departure from Asean's earlier insistence that, as a group, Asean will not venture into the military realm of regional cooperation. With the advent of the Special SOM, Asean military cooperation is no longer unimaginable. The question is: Does this mean that Asean may be in the process of transforming into a military bloc? To answer this question, we must first ask ourselves whether, in the prevailing regional atmosphere there is any need for a military bloc. The answer would most probably be in the negative. It would be anachronistic of Asean to even think about forming a military alliance of any sort. Asean security cooperation is necessary today not as an end in itself but as a tool for ensuring economic prosperity for the region. In order to secure a sustainable economic growth, countries of the region need trust, understanding, a predictable pattern of political and security relationships, as well as effective mechanisms through which regional disputes could be resolved quickly and peacefully.

Picking up where the first Special SOM left off, the Bangkok meeting will attempt to institutionalize the habit of security cooperation and dialogue among Asean countries. If successful, at the very least, more Special SOMs will follow on a more regular basis.

Influenced by the changing global security environment, the agenda of the second Special SOM would most likely evolve around two main questions: (a) How (and how far) can intra-Asean security cooperation be strengthened and (b) how should Asean deal with the metamorphosis of the current security configuration within the Asia-Pacific region? The answers for these questions would also help Asean countries prepare themselves for the grand event—the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), which will be held in Bangkok in July of this year, following a meeting among the senior officials of ASEAN and other members of the ARF in Bangkok in May.

Both the Special SOM and the Asean Regional Forum are two important and complementing fora which could meaningfully contribute to Asean's effort in intensifying its internal and external dialogues on political and security issues. With the support of everyone concerned, they could serve to strengthen and promote political and security cooperation in the Southeast Asian region as well as help develop a more predictable and constructive pattern of political and security relationship for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

Japan

Reportage on U.S. Reinstatement of 'Super 301'

Hosokawa Receives Clinton Call

OW0403013294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0121 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday he received a phone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton explaining his decision to reinstate the "Super 301" trade provision.

The premier declined to elaborate on what was discussed, made just after midnight Thursday Japan time, but a Japanese Government source said both Hosokawa and Clinton agreed to make efforts to avoid retaliatory action being taken. [sentence as received]

The measure gives the U.S. Government power to retaliate against trading partners deemed to be engaging in unfair practices. The two leaders failed in talks on February 11 to agree on a new trade framework to reduce Japan's surplus in bilateral trade.

Government sources said the Hosokawa government will shortly issue a statement to express its regret over the Super 301 announcement.

Hosokawa on Aim of 'Super 301'

OW0403140894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday the U.S. decision to reinstate the "Super 301" trade retaliation provision is aimed at putting pressure on Japan.

Hosokawa told reporters the United States expects a more favorable response from Japan over trade disputes, particularly those over cellular phones, insurance and government procurement markets.

The prime minister said he will take the lead in improving ties between Japan and the United States.

Hosokawa said he was informed of the U.S. decision in an early morning telephone call on Friday by president Bill Clinton.

Hosokawa quoted Clinton as saying that the U.S. Congress is preparing more rigid trade action and that the reinstatement of the Super 301 legislation is considerably more moderate.

The premier said, however, it would take a long time for the U.S. to actually apply the Super 301 provision.

Earlier in the day, Hosokawa said he is not considering any immediate steps to counter the fresh U.S. move. "No, none at this moment," Hosokawa said. "We agreed to deal with the matter coolly," he said.

Hosokawa later ordered cabinet ministers to give priority to opening the telecommunications market and the distribution system in working out economic deregulation to provide foreign firms wider access to the Japanese market, government officials said.

The officials said Hosokawa issued the order at a meeting held after a regular cabinet session.

Hosokawa: No Immediate Countermeasures

OW0403065894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday he is not considering any immediate steps to counter the U.S. decision to reinstate the "Super 301" trade retaliation provision.

"No, none at this moment," Hosokawa said when asked if the government may take action against the U.S. move announced Thursday.

Hosokawa said he was informed of the U.S. decision in a telephone call by President Bill Clinton.

"We agreed to deal with the matter coolly," he said.

Hosokawa later ordered cabinet ministers to give priority to opening the telecommunications market and the distribution system in working out economic deregulation to provide foreign firms wider access to the Japanese market, government officials said.

The officials said Hosokawa issued the order at a meeting held after a regular cabinet session.

Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi told the meeting that the government's emphasis on deregulating housing and real estate would not help improve overall relations between Japan and the United States because Japanese imports of housing-related goods are limited, the officials said.

Hosokawa said deregulation of the telecom market and streamlining the distribution system should be added to the list of priorities, they said.

In a related development, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki told reporters Friday he is not sure whether a dispute with Washington over mobile phones can be settled quickly in private-sector negotiations.

He said the talks are nearing a conclusion, but it is not known if they will bring about a quick solution.

Motorola Inc. of the United States and Nippon Idou Tsushin Corp. (IDO) of Japan have been discussing U.S. demands for boosting foreign access to the Japanese cellular phone market since Washington announced plans in mid-February to retaliate against Japan over the dispute.

Washington, accusing Japan of breaching a bilateral 1989 trade pact, has threatened to raise its tariffs on imports of Japanese telecom goods and possibly other products.

It has set March 17 as the deadline for unveiling a list of Japanese imports to be targeted for retaliation.

Japanese business leaders deplored the U.S. Administration's decision to reinstate the super 301 clause.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said super 301 runs counter to the spirit of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade aimed at freer world trade.

He called on the Japanese Government to promote the opening of Japan's market.

Kosaku Inaba, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the Clinton administration apparently wants to use the clause as a tool to take the upper hand in its trade negotiations with the Japanese Government.

Minister Hata Expresses Concern

OW0403032594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed concern Friday over the U.S. move to revive the Super 301 trade weapon, calling it "unilateral."

Hata told a news conference that the move is "unilateral procedural strengthening" and that he is "concerned about it."

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Thursday announced reinstatement of the 1988 trade act's Super 301 portion, which allows the president to retaliate against countries deemed to be engaging in unfair trade practices.

Noting that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks completed in December had agreed to prohibit unilateral steps, Hata said Japan hopes the United States will act on the trade authority carefully.

He also indicated Japan will not hesitate to bring its case to the world trade body, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, if the U.S. uses the weapon against Japan.

"Japan wants to resolve the case multilaterally rather than bilaterally," he said.

Admitting that Japan's unabated current account surplus creates frustration in other countries, Hata also emphasized the need for Japan to make "meaningful" efforts to cut the surplus.

Hata Interviewed on Subject

OW0403153094 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1009 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata and NHK Economic News Department reporter Tsruo Mochitsuki via satellite; Hata speaks from unidentified location, Kawabata and Mochitsuki speak in NHK's Tokyo studio] txt [Text] [Kawabata] We will interview Foreign Minister Hata. Mr. Hata, what do you think of the U.S. decision to revive the Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act?

[Hata] For a long time, there have been moves among U.S. congressmen to submit a bill to revive the Super 301 provision. At the same time, the U.S. Administration has maintained that it would be better to issue a presidential executive order rather than enacting the bill in Congress. It has been reported since last month or earlier that the administration would decide to revive the Super 301 provision.

[Kawabata] Do you mean that the Japanese Government has anticipated the revival of the Super 301 provision?

[Hata] Yes, yes. The idea of reviving the Super 301 provision has been around in the United States for a while. The latest step the U.S. Government has taken is a procedure to revive the Super 301 provision. It is said that the revival of the Super 301 provision targets Japan because the Japan-U.S. framework talks ended in a breakdown, but it is not true. Our understanding is that the revived Super 301 provision will be applied to all other nations and will not target any specific nations.

[Mochitsuki] Mr. Hata, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor has unequivocally told a news conference that the Japanese market is very closed. Has the United States decided to revive the Super 301 provision with Japan in mind?

[Hata] Americans already have in mind that Japan is the top surplus nation among trade partners of the United States. In that sense, I think there are many venues for the United States to discuss the trade issue with Japan. For the United States, Japan is its second largest trade partner, second to Canada. Japan's imports from the United States equal the imports of France, Britain, and Germany combined from that country. I believe Japan is an important trade partner for the United States.

[Watanabe] Mr. Hata, we just had a discussion in this studio. What do you think of a six-month moratorium for negotiations?

[Hata] I think the United States probably intends to set a direction of settling the trade dispute within six months. My understanding is that the terms of the Super 301 provision are more reasonable than the past terms. In this connection, the Uruguay Round of GATT was recently concluded, and a new trade organization called the World Trade Organization will be created. Various trade disputes will be settled by the new trade organization, and this is an international rule for negotiating trade disputes. The United States intends to settle bilateral trade issues through the revival of the Super 301 provision after the Uruguay Round has just concluded. We deeply regret the revival of the Super 301 provision by the United States.

[Mochitsuki] In reality, the Japan-U.S. framework talks ended in a breakdown. I think the talks did not end, but they should be resumed in the future. Japan is said to be ready to discuss the issue of numerical targets with the United States.

[Hata] Yes.

[Mochitsuki] What do you see as the prospects of such talks?

[Hata] The moment the Japan-U.S. framework talks ended in breakdown, what I told officials from ministries and agencies was that, despite the breakdown of the Japan-U.S. framework talks, they should not be careless. I also told them that Japan is the world's largest trade surplus nation, and this is a problem, and opening the Japanese market will make the people's lives affluent. Japan should work to voluntarily open its market. The prime minister returned to Japan with the same idea. He called in cabinet members the day after he returned to Japan. Recently, key cabinet members met to agree to map out a package of measures in March to open the Japanese market.

[Kawabata] If the United States raises the issue of numerical targets in future negotiations, will Japan say no to them again?

[Hata] Rather than us saying no, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor has not said that numerical targets should be a yardstick and only one means to measure bilateral trade. [sentence as heard] The Hosokawa cabinet intends to promote administrative reform and deregulation. In other words, the cabinet is moving toward keeping it from intervening in the activities of the private sector. Japan, therefore, has told the United States that setting such numerical targets is no good at a time when the Japanese Government is making such moves. Japan also told the United States that setting such numerical targets would disrupt free trade and the Uruguay Round has just concluded. I am confident that the issue of the numerical targets will undoubtedly be resolved if the two countries trust each other and fully understand each other's recent actions. There are some other trade issues between the two countries. I think negotiations between the two countries on such trade issues as the insurance sector and government procurement came closer to agreement. I believe an agreement will be hammered out through negotiation. I believe the two countries should do so.

[Kawabata] I would like to ask about future Japan-U.S. relations. Do you think that the breakdown of the Japan-U.S. framework talks has prompted the U.S. Administration to decide to revive the Super 301 provision?

[Hata] I do not think so. I do not think that the U.S. Administration has decided to issue the presidential executive order because of the breakdown of the framework talks.

[Kawabata] Some are pointing out that the revival of the Super 301 provision would affect not only bilateral economic issues, but all Japan-U.S. relations.

[Hata] During a meeting with me, Mr. Kantor told me that although the Japan-U.S. framework talks ended in a breakdown, the United States has experienced many breakdowns in trade talks with European nations and Canada. Mr. Kantor also told me: Mr. Hata, do not worry about the breakdown of the Japan-U.S. framework talks. Mr. Kantor went on to said to me: No matter how well security, political, and international cooperation goes, bilateral economic issues will trigger frustrations among Americans. The bilateral economic issues will hurt bilateral relations. The two countries should settle the economic issues. He and I feared that if the economic issues are not settled, this would create a rift in relations between the two countries. I hope to resolve the economic issues in one way or another. An agreement document was exchanged between the prime minister and the President on cooperation between Japan and the United States in tackling environmental problems, the population issue, and AIDS.

[Kawabata] I would like to ask about how the Japanese Government will deal with the revival of the Super 301 provision. In past negotiations on the Super 301 provision, Japan avoided facing sanctions from the United States by making concessions to the Untied States. Will Japan make concessions to the United States again?

[Hata] No, Japan will not make concessions to the United States. The United States has not decided to revive the Super 301 provision to target Japan. I hope the two countries will discuss their trade issues in the WTO. My frank feeling is that the United States should have been cautious about reviving the Super 301 provision.

[Tsuruo] The government intends to map out a package of measures on its own to relax the bureaucratic regulations and open the Japanese market. This package will be mapped out, but it is often said that bureaucrats are strongly resisting the relaxation of bureaucratic regulations. Mr. Hata, will Prime Minister Hosokawa display his leadership?

[Hata] We are talking with various bureaucrats. Politicians and bureaucrats realize that if Japan is left untouched, it would be able to do nothing. The people are also realizing that deregulation will raise their living standard. Deregulation will create new projects, and the people are realizing that. I am confident that bureaucrats will work for deregulation, and I can say there will be no problem. Prime Minister Hosokawa is working on the issue with a firm resolve. I believe that deregulation will bring about a tangible effect. The United States intends to sell its goods in Japan and gain access to the Japanese market, and other nations intend to do so too. Japan should open its market to those nations and compete with them. I think that Japan cannot bypass this.

[Kawabata] The government will map out a package of measures in March. Would you specify them?

[Hata] I cannot specify them since the government is now working on them.

[Tsuruo] Mr. Hata, what do you expect from private enterprises?

[Hata] Private enterprises should be determined to compete with foreign firms. Private enterprises should purchase their goods from many foreign firms. If they make effort to that end, their efforts will be understood in the international community.

[Kawabata] Mr. Hata, thank you very much for appearing on our interview program.

Government Issues Statement

OW0403033294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0325 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The following is a statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary and government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura on the U.S. Decision to reinstate the "Super 301" provision:

1. The government of the United States has decided to reinstate the Super 301 clause through an Executive Order. However, unilateral measures not in accordance with the dispute settlement rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be established as a result of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round are explicitly prohibited. At a time when we have essentially agreed upon these new international trading rules, the Government of Japan cannot keep silent its concerns over this move to strengthen procedures enabling the United States to initiate unilateral actions against another country in the resolution of trade problems.

2. While it is necessary to closely watch what sort of measures the United States will take based upon the provisions of the reinstated Super 301 clause, the Government of Japan, in recognition of the responsibility for the development of the world economy that Japan and the United States, as the two largest economies in the world, bear in striving to maintain smooth bilateral economic relations, strongly hopes that the Government of the United States will act in a sensible manner, and for its part, recognizes the need for a restrained response.

3. In this regard, at a recent meeting of cabinet ministers concerned with external issues at the ministerial conference for economic measures, the Government of Japan reaffirmed its intention to advance voluntary measures toward further market opening. The Government of Japan is determined to make its utmost efforts to strive for smooth operation of our external relations, irrespective of the aforementioned moves in the United States.

Finance Minister Fujii Comments

OW0403021794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Recent rises in long-term interest rates are not likely to hurt the economy and are probably a temporary phenomenon, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday.

He also told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting that he is "concerned" about President Bill Clinton's decision to revive the retaliatory "Super 301" provision of U.S. Trade Law, but said Japan must react "coolly."

Asked about recent climbs in long-term government bond yields, Fujii said, "I do not think they are trending upward" and said they would not likely harm the economy.

Fujii said market rates "fell quite far" after last September's cut in the Bank of Japan's official discount rate to a record low 1.75 percent a year.

The benchmark 10-year government bond yield climbed to 3.94 percent Wednesday, the highest since just before the rate cut, with market players citing a central bank survey that showed a halt in declining business confidence and supply-demand concerns over stepped-up government bond issuance.

Fujii cited markets analyses that overseas rate increases were pushing Japanese rates higher and that there are some expectations of Japanese economic recovery, but he repeated that the economic picture remains mixed.

He also repeated that the effects of last month's record 15.25 trillion yen economic stimulus package have yet to be felt, adding that "the effects should steadily emerge."

Fujii denied a suggestion that rates are rising naturally as the market thinks the economy has already bottomed and brushed off concern that premature rate increases could dash a recovery.

On the Super 301 trade provision, Fujii said, "It is possible that unilateral moves could occur, and we are concerned about that."

But he stressed that the overnight White House announcement merely sets in motion "procedures" that could ultimately result in sanctions or other moves.

He expressed hope that Washington will make a "sensible response," and said Japan must act in a cool-headed way to avoid a breakdown into a trade war.

Fujii said Japan plans to make a "voluntary, positive response," citing a pledge to complete a package of market-opening measures this month including deregulation, import promotion, improved government procurement practices and beefed-up antitrust enforcement.

But he said Japan's policy is to continue to oppose numerical targets to gauge progress, saying that macroeconomic targets have not been mentioned in discussions on the package by government ministers.

In the insurance sector, for which his ministry is responsible, Fujii said "substantial agreement had been reached" with the U.S. and that Japan will proceed "positively" on the issue.

Super 301 allows the U.S. Administration to retaliate against trade practices judged to be unfair, but U.S. officials have said they hope both sides can avoid retaliation.

Takemura: Government Concerned

OW0403035294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan on Friday voiced concern about U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to revive the "Super 301" trade retaliation mechanism through an executive order.

"We have to express concern about the U.S. Government move to build up the strength of its procedures that would clear the way for unilateral action in resolving trade disputes with other countries," Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference.

The top government spokesman made the comment after Clinton reinstated Thursday the trade measure that gives the U.S. Government broad legal authority to impose sanctions unless Japan meets U.S. demands on greater access to Japanese markets.

Takemura argued that taking unilateral action as a means of resolving bilateral trade rows is "implicitly" prohibited under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or the yet-to-be-created World Trade Organization.

Saying both Japan and the United States shoulder heavy responsibility for smooth management of the world economy, Takemura urged the U.S. Government to "take sensible action."

The chief cabinet secretary also reiterated Tokyo is determined to do its utmost to further open its markets to foreign competition on a voluntary basis.

Super 301, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1988, gives the President power to retaliate against countries which the U.S. deems to be engaging in unfair trade practices.

Prime Minister Hosokawa received a phone call from Clinton shortly after midnight Thursday Japan time notifying him of the decision to resuscitate Super 301, Takemura said.

Clinton was quoted as saying the revived provision is not intended to target any particular country and that the U.S. and Japan can resolve the brewing bilateral trade spat through dialogue.

Under the provisions spelled out by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Thursday, the U.S. Government will not identify any potential target country until September 30, and will seek to negotiate a settlement over a period of 12 to 18 months before taking any punitive action.

Kantor said, "It should be clearly understood we are not designating or identifying any practice of any country today."

During the phone call, Hosokawa told Clinton that Tokyo is scheduled to devise a package of measures to further open its markets by the end of March and said both countries should show restraint, Takemura said.

Asked if Japan will file a complaint with GATT if the U.S. imposes trade sanctions against it, the chief government spokesman only reiterated that Tokyo is making voluntary efforts to formulate a market-opening package.

Act May Cause Trade 'Shrinkage'

OW0403070794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's Trade Minister Hiroshi Kumagai warned Friday that the U.S. decision to reinstate the super 301 trade provision may lead to a shrinkage of global trade.

Kumagai, minister of international trade and industry, told a press conference after a morning cabinet meeting that the U.S. way of trying to resolve trade issues through unilateral measures carries the risk of shrinking trade as a whole.

"It is worrying that the U.S. strengthened the trade retaliation authority at a time when the international community is trying to boost free-market rules," he said.

Kumagai said the top priority for Japan now is to wrap up market- opening measures by the end of March as planned.

"I don't think the Japanese market is unfair or exclusive, but nevertheless there is a need to create a market with greater transparency," he said.

Japan needs to act voluntarily "to prevent Japan-U.S. relations from lapsing into a vicious cycle," he said.

Business Community Reacts to Move

OW0403131194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's business community reacted with a mixture of caution and anger Friday [4 March] to the United States' revival of the so-called super 301 clause that allows President Bill Clinton to impose sanctions on countries deemed to have unfair trade practices.

"I deeply regret the reinstatement of this clause that has retaliation as a precondition," said Yutaka Kume, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Japan's auto industry has been under mounting pressure from the United States to boost purchases of U.S. Auto parts to help reduce Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor announced Thursday that Clinton had signed an executive order reviving the super 301 clause which authorizes him to identify what Washington regards as unfair trade practices subject to retaliation.

"Unilateral retaliation runs counter to the spirit of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)," said an official at a major Japanese automaker.

"It's wrong to use the method of linking a macroeconomic issue like the (U.S. trade) deficit to a microeconomic issue (like auto trade)," he said.

Some business people said it remains uncertain whether the U.S. will actually take sanctions against Japan.

"I wonder if it is possible (for the U.S.) to do it because U.S. consumers will be the victims of import restrictions on autos," said an executive at one major automaker.

But some others pointed to the need for Tokyo to take measures to rectify the bilateral trade imbalance, saying Japan has been slow in taking action on the issue.

"The government should go ahead with macroeconomic measures to address the trade surplus by boosting domestic demand and recycling the surplus," NEC Corp. President Tadahiro Sekimoto said.

Ministry: Current Account Surplus Rises in Jan

OW0403070394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0642 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus rose 30.9 percent in January from a year before, marking a second straight increase after a one-month drop, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

The figure, representing the net balance in the nation's trade in goods and services and some unilateral transfers, totaled a preliminary 6.83 billion dollars before adjustments for seasonal factors, the ministry said.

The January figures followed December's year-on-year gain of 9.3 percent to 12.57 billion dollars. That was a return to Japan's swelling black ink with the rest of the world after a November decline broke a string of six straight quarterly increases from year-earlier levels.

Within the current account, the merchandise trade surplus—the difference between exports and imports of merchandise—rose 15.1 percent in January from a year before to 8.26 billion dollars, the ministry said.

Exports rose 6.9 percent to 25.36 billion dollars, while imports rose 3.3 percent to 17.09 billion dollars.

Hosokawa Delivers Policy Speech to Diet

OW0403052594 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0404 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Policy speech by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to the 129th ordinary Diet session on 4 March—live]

[Text] Ever since my government was formed in August 1993, I have worked for the three reforms of political reform, administrative reform, and economic reform under the banner of responsible change.

With one era ended yet the emerging shape of the era to come yet unclear, we have no choice but to take the initiative in identifying new paths so as to ensure a bright outlook for the future. Having chosen the path of change and its demand that we remake politics, the economy, and our society, those of us responsible for government at this historic juncture have a duty to forge ahead no matter how great the difficulties.

Political reform was this government's first priority issue, and the passage of the amendments to the political reform laws represents a major step toward the attainment of new and responsible politics. Making every effort to ensure that the laws are implemented smoothly, I intend, with the consent of both houses of this Diet, to appoint the members of the House of Representatives Election District Advisory Commission soon and then once their recommendations are received, to promptly submit legislation to this Diet for the actual redistricting.

Of course, I need not remind you that the real basis for rooting out political corruption and reestablishing trust in politics fundamentally has to lie in each and every politician's having a strong ethical sense. It is sad indeed that there are still widespread suspicions of structural linkages between money and politics as seen in the so-called construction scandals, and I believe it would be inexcusable should we fail to enact more effective anticorruption measures and other systemic reforms.

Political reform is the framework within which we can achieve responsible change, and we have only just reached the starting line for those real reforms where politics must take the initiative. Realizing how little time there is until the 21st century, it is clear that we must move steadfastly toward creating a society of quality and substance that will have the international community's trust.

In laying the foundations for a new era of development, it is first imperative that we demolish those systems and practices that are no longer compatible with the needs of the times. Now that we have made some progress on political reform, it is essential that we make a determined effort for economic reform and administrative reform, both for ourselves and so that we can fulfill our responsibilities to the international community. I thus intend to take up the gauntlet of new reforms, not forgetting the essential spirit of this reform government.

The thing that the people most ardently desire now is an escape from this grim recession. Although there are some bright spots, the overall picture remains one of uncertainty and dead-endedness, and we cannot take our economic future for granted. Within this, we must pay special attention to the grim employment picture.

It is thus crucial that we deploy all possible effective policy measures in a concerted and timely manner to work our way out of this situation. Thus it was that we recently drew up the comprehensive package of economic measures amounting to an unprecedented 15 trillion yen including income and residents tax cuts and additional measures under the third supplemental budget. Dovetailing this into the budget for fiscal 1994, we must now achieve seamless fiscal expenditures and get the economy on the road to recovery as soon as possible.

Along with ensuring strong growth for public works spending and local government projects in consideration of the state of the economy, the fiscal 1994 budget proposal represents a determined effort to promote social infrastructure improvements in preparation for the advent of the aged society, including priority investment in housing, water and sewer systems, parks, environmental facilities, and other areas impacting directly to improve the quality of Japanese life. Every possible consideration has also been paid to policies to support hard-pressed farmers and small businesspeople and to stabilize employment.

Given the critical state of the economy, I very much hope that this budget proposal will be enacted as soon as possible.

In addition to cyclical factors and the collapse of the speculative bubble, this recession is said to have been exacerbated by structural factors in that many of those economic structures that used to work so rationally are no longer effective. Dynamic development in the private sector, the main player in the Japanese economy, is essential if we are to resolve this problem and the ensure long-term development. I am confident that the private sector will face the current difficulties unflinchingly and will be able to overcome them, and it is to encourage and support these efforts that we must promote economic reform that, clarifying the medium-term outlook, will be conducive to business restructuring and the creation and development of new industries.

Looking specifically at deregulation, we intend to move toward making nonregulation the norm and regulation the exception in the economic sphere and to be constantly reviewing social regulations so as, inter alia, to expand business opportunities and broaden consumer choice and to enhance purchasing power by reducing the disparity between Japanese and overseas prices. We will take dramatic action with the priority on those areas that relate to promoting the more effective and appropriate use of land and encouraging housing construction, that stimulate the creation of new businesses in information telecommunications and other areas, that relate to reducing the disparity between Japanese and overseas prices in such areas as distribution and energy, and that affect import promotion. At the same time, we will work for the rigorous enforcement of the antimonopoly law to eliminate those anticompetitive practices that are a cause of Japan's higher prices and that inhibit the creation of new business opportunities and foreign access to Japan.

Administrative reform is an urgent issue that cannot be avoided as we seek to reform Japanese socioeconomic structures and make them better suited to the new era. While there is general agreement that Japanese administrative structures and systems functioned effectively for our development from the end of the war until recently, these structures and systems have not always been able to respond adequately to the striking transformation in the socioeconomic climate and the major changes in popular needs. It is impossible for administration alone to stand unchanged when there are such major changes taking place in politics and the economy.

Seeking to establish administration that is fair, transparent, and above all has the popular interest as its first priority, now is the time for us to initiate radical surgery on our administrative structures and systems. Starting with deregulation as an interface between the governmental and nongovernmental sectors and considering nothing sacred, I intend to reexamine all of those systems and structures that have not kept up with the times and to promote sweeping reform including redelineating governmental and nongovernment roles, redefining the relationship between the central and local governments, and correcting the impediments posed by our overcompartmentalized bureaucracy, as well as to make an effort for the greater disclosure of administrative information.

So far, we have spent an enormous amount of time on discussions at various venues, including the Second Extraordinary Administrative Research Council and the Administrative Reform Council. However, it is also true that there has been criticism, saying that not enough has been accomplished in administrative reform. While we are submitting legislation to this session of the Diet to establish a committee on administrative reform, I have resolved that the question before us is that of how to achieve effective administrative reform and am determined to promote visible administrative reform.

While I believe that our decision to implement the largest-ever income tax and residents tax cut was both necessary and justified given the current economic situation, that does not give us license to be irresponsible about the very serious fiscal situation that will exist at the end of fiscal 1994, including national bonds outstanding in excess of 200 trillion yen and a substantial overhang of local government bonds. It is imperative that the people understand that we cannot let the fiscal situation deteriorate unchecked and cannot leave future generations severely indebted.

If we are to avoid impairing the economy's vitality and are to respond appropriately to the needs of the times even with an aged society, it is essential that we press forward with fiscal reform and continue to work to ensure sound fiscal management, and further efforts will be needed to create a fiscal structure in which the value of national bonds outstanding does not continue to rise and rise. At the same time, we must also work for the smooth management of local finances as well. Thus it is that, in tandem with administrative reform, we are promoting thorough rationalization and prioritization of expenditures. On tax reform, we are working to promote discussion on the broad range of issues involved, including the national burden and the tax system, tax cuts and how to finance them, and how to distribute the tax burden appropriately and equitably, and hope to reach a consensus soon and to get the relevant legislation enacted by the Diet by the end of the year so as to institute a balanced tax structure combining income, consumption, asset, and other taxes and to achieve a vigorous and affluent welfare society.

I would like to make specific proposals in the three areas of (i) structuring society for boundlessly creative individuality, (ii) structuring the foundations for a life of abundance and quality, and (iii) structuring society so that older means more vigorous.

Looking at the world to come, I suspect the groundswell of diverse individuality will give birth to new cultural and economic activity and that will in turn become the fountainhead of new vitality. At the same time, this will constitute an important foundation enabling Japan to behave and to contribute as a responsible member of the international community. Now is the time for us to achieve new advances in science and technology, education, and information telecommunications so as to achieve this new development.

Science and technology is the driving force for the economy and the stuff of dreams for the future. Creating an environment in which scientists and engineers can engage creatively in the work they love is thus an indispensable investment in the future. It is often said that Japan lags behind in basic research and leading-edge research, but I believe Japan should play a leadership role, including international cooperation, in space, life sciences, the environment, energy, and other research areas looking ahead to the 21st century. Thus it is that, in addition to enhancing research facilities and the information infrastructure, I want to further improve the provisions for research and development, including education for boundlessly creative people and international cooperation.

At the same time, I would like to make Japan a society that radiates culture—a society in which each individual, region, and the state projects richly distinctive culture that Japan can be proud of internationally and that works through cross-fertilization for new cultural creation. Accordingly, I will work to promote cultural, artistic, and sports activities such as fostering young artists and promoting cultural activities distinct to each region. In addition, I will place a high priority on promoting human resources development and international cultural exchanges by, for example, promoting the program to accommodate 100,000 foreign students by the beginning of the next century, further enhancing language education, and developing human resources in connection with our assistance programs so as to create a climate of dialogue in which we and our global neighbors can understand and accept our diversity better.

Using education to foster richly individual people is basic to creating a highly cultural country. There are many views of Japanese education, including that it is overly uniform or that it discourages initiative, and I want to promote educational reform aimed at creating more attractive and open education from the earliest years through university graduation.

One of the areas in which it is hoped that creative economic activity will open the way to new development in the years to come is that of information telecommunications. With the recent rapid technological advances, information is no longer limited by either space or time, and it is likely that we will be able to achieve a society early in the 21st century revolutionizing life and business as we now know them. Yet the fact is that Japanese information telecommunications has, unfortunately, not lived up to expectations. Thus it is that I want to draw up a new vision for the kind of information society that we seek from the long-term perspective as soon as possible, to make better use of information technologies in the public sector, and to develop a comprehensive package of measures including promoting the development of information telecommunications networks, fusing broadcasting and telecommunications, and promoting information education.

It should be noted that I will also work steadily to support the creation of new business opportunities in the information telecommunications sector by, for example, encouraging small businesses to go into new fields, working for flexible labor markets, activating the financial and securities markets, and promoting bold restructuring.

Japan has grown to be the world's second-strongest economic power, but I suspect many of the people do not yet have a sense of true affluence in their daily lives. People in the outlying areas feel they have fewer job opportunities than in the big cities and that they do not have the same convenient access to cultural and educational opportunities, and many people in the big cities feel their lives are blighted by the unaffordability of quality housing, the trauma of commuting, and other problems. Among the causes here are the overconcentration of functions in the Tokyo area and the inadequacy of social infrastructure relating to everyday life, and it is essential that we move quickly to institute effective policies in this area.

I believe the important thing here is that each region take the initiative in exercising ingenuity to create attractive communities and that we improve the infrastructure for balanced development throughout Japan. For this to happen, the first point is that local governments close to the people must take the lead in solving their residents' problems, which means we must make a determined effort to promote decentralization, including enhancing local government finances. I thus want to draw up a basic policy outline by the end of the year detailing the basic philosophy, the issues to be addressed, and the procedures to be followed, including the possibility of new legislation.

Working for the creation of a multicentered country, I also want to promote the dispersion of urban and industrial functions to outlying areas and to encourage the creation of efficient high-speed road, rail, and air transportation networks linking hub cities nationwide, to promote development for underpopulated and mountainous regions, and more. Along with working for the further enhancement of conservation and the total range of disaster- prevention policies, I will also continue to work vigorously for Hokkaido's overall growth and for Okinawa's development.

It is imperative that we further enhance the living related infrastructure directly related to providing greater convenience so that all people everywhere can have tangible sense of affluence no matter where they live. For example, we will seek to lower housing costs by promoting a dramatic restructuring of the housing industry, housing imports, and other means and will work to promote the more efficient and systematic use of land space so that people can live in bigger houses that feel less cramped and offer greater convenience. At the same time, it is necessary to steadfastly promote improvements in roads, parks, water and sewer systems, waste disposal plants, and other amenities and improvements in intracity rail carrying capacities and other social infrastructure to alleviate commuter crowding.

The environmental and energy issues are not only important issues for those of us alive today but must be dealt with in consideration of future generations and the whole of the global community. I thus want to draw up the basic environment law and to move to implement comprehensive policies as soon as possible so that we can bequeath a beautiful environment and the bounty of nature to future generations. Likewise, I want, in tandem with energy conservation and the faster development and use of alternative energy sources, to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy premised upon assured safety.

The everyday safety and security that we enjoy in our lives is an asset that Japan can be proud of, and preserving this is one of the government's important responsibilities. Yet just as the crime picture has lately become quite grim with the increasing viciousness and ingenuity of organized criminal elements, the increasing frequency of drug-related incidents and shootings, and the fact that crime has become less localized and more international, we are also recording large numbers of traffic deaths. I intend to be unstinting in my efforts to maintain public order and to ensure public safety.

At the same time, I intend to submit comprehensive consumer protection and relief legislation, including the adoption of product liability rules, to this session of the Diet so as to enhance consumer interests in regard to product safety from the perspective of putting the consumer first.

If there is anxiety about the fact that Japan now has the longest lifespan in the world and will soon become the world's first society to have very large numbers of old people and very few children, this anxiety is politics' responsibility. If we are to achieve a vigorous and cheerful welfare society in the 21st century, it is important that we draw up a comprehensive aged society welfare vision striking a balance among pension funding, health care, welfare provisions, and the other essential elements and reach a national consensus on how the envisioned welfare society is going to be supported.

To start with, I would like to structure society by the early 21st century so that any individual who so desires can find gainful employment until at least the age of 65. In addition to modifying the unemployment insurance system to subsidize continued employment, I also want to make an active effort in support of reemployment and retraining for older people. The government pension system is a major financial support for the elderly, and I want to ensure that it is linked to this support for continued employment and want to ensure that it is basically reformed so as to be better suited to the truly aged society of the future.

In addition, I will fundamentally review the "gold plan" ten-year strategy to promote health care and welfare for the aged with all due heed to financing sources and will work to enhance the home- helper system and other care systems so as to create a society in which older people can enjoy good health and peace of mind. On the health insurance system and health insurance for the aged, I want to work to alleviate the cost to the patient of nursing care and to review the extent and specifics of coverage so as to enable the different systems to provide enhanced medical services responsive to the different needs of different patients.

Likewise, I will actively promote measures for the handicapped, including enhancing community access for these people under the new long-term program for government measures for disabled persons.

Health is a most important prerequisite to leading a rich life, and we will therefore move ahead with comprehensive policies to deal with cancer and other degenerative and intractable diseases. Along with drawing up a new 10-year strategy to defeat cancer and working to enhance the medical response to AIDs, including improving hub hospitals and advancing medical research on treatments, we will also work to contribute to the prevention and cure of AIDs on a global basis, including support for the tenth International Conference on AIDs to be held in Japan later this year.

Today's lower birth rates, the greater numbers of women working outside the home, and other factors have meant major changes in the social environment as it impacts children and the home. This year is the international year of the family. For these and other reasons, I want to work to create a climate in which people can have and raise children in confidence, including enhancing the nursery provisions and creating a children's environmental fund. In addition, I want to work to enhance the home-care leave system, including the possibility of postnatal leave payments under the unemployment insurance scheme and home-care leave legislation, so that people can reconcile the needs of home and work, and I also want to promote labor policies for part-time workers.

Likewise, I will promote comprehensive policies and seek to formulate systems conducive to the creation of a joint-participation society in which women are able to take an equal part with men in the total range of political, business, and social fields.

It bodes well for the world economy's future that the GATT Uruguay Round was finally concluded last December after more than seven years of negotiations. In concluding these negotiations, Japan accepted the draft agreement on agriculture, thereby according rice special treatment regarding tariffication and subjecting other agricultural products to tariffication. This was a most heartrending decision made after strenuous consideration in recognition of the broader national interest in the maintenance and strengthening of the free trading system.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries serve many functions, such as ensuring the stable supply of food so vital to our lives and providing restful spaces rich in tradition and local culture. Water-filled paddies and sheaves of ripe rice are symbolic of Japan, and rice farming also plays a crucial role in land conservation and environmental protection.

Thus I believe it is now all the more important that the government make every possible effort to allay the anxieties felt by farmers and to create a climate in which they can devote themselves to farming. Taking the helm of the emergency agriculture and farming area headquarters established late last year, I am determined to make every effort to draw up a vision for agriculture's rebirth and to institute the necessary domestic measures.

Likewise for forestry and fisheries, I will also work to promote the improvement and preservation of forest resources and to promote a strong fishing industry drawing on the rich bounty of the life- sustaining sea.

Japan is currently running a massive current account surplus, and there are still insistent voices claiming that the Japanese market is closed. While some of this criticism stems from misunderstanding, I would rather see this as evidence of the high hopes people have for Japan and I believe we should take the initiative in implementing the necessary reforms in our own interest.

The economic reforms and administrative reforms now under way are responsive to the international community's expectations. Along with domestic-demand-led economic management, we need to ensure that the Japanese market is open to the rest of the world in accordance with international trade rules by promoting further deregulation and other measures to improve market access and rectify price differentials, ensuring greater transparency in government procurement procedures, strengthening the office of trade and investment ombudsman, and enhancing the import infrastructure.

I find it very unfortunate that President Clinton and I were unable to reach an agreement regarding the establishment of the so-called target values in the Japan-U.S. framework talks recently. Recognizing that Japan's responsibilities for harmonization with the international community are now greater than ever before, I believe that we must, while firmly adhering to free-trade principles, take effective measures to achieve a highly significant decrease in our current account surplus over the medium term.

While the road to world peace and stability is by no means smooth, our course is gradually becoming clearer as the international community pools its wisdom and its efforts toward its common goals. Indeed, the peace in Cambodia and the progress in the Middle East peace talks are symbolic of the way issues can be resolved through cooperation within the international community.

The United Nations is obviously the fulcrum of the international community's efforts, and its capacities should be further strengthened so that it can respond effectively to the needs of the new era. This year will be marked by international discussion of the reform of the Security Council, and Japan intends to take an active part in these discussions and is prepared to do all it can to discharge its responsibilities in order to meet the international community's expectations.

Looking ahead, I intend to work for a more peaceful and more prosperous world of respect for diversity by drawing upon all the resources at Japan's command, including not only economic cooperation but also personnel and intellectual cooperation, and marshaling them in effective combination to make a distinctively Japanese international contribution consistent with our Peace Constitution.

One of the areas in which Japan must play a larger role is that of regional conflict prevention and resolution. I believe resolving regional conflicts and stabilizing the affected regions needs a comprehensive approach that includes diplomatic efforts to end conflicts, U.N. peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance, and reconstruction development assistance for countries that have been torn apart by violence. The process by which the conflict in Cambodia was successfully drawn to a close is one good example of this approach. Currently taking part in the U.N. peacekeeping operations in Mozambique, Japan intends to continue to support international efforts for peace, including dispatching election observers to El Salvador later this month, providing support for the efforts to enhance Palestinian living standards as a key to peace in the Middle East, and enhancing its humanitarian assistance to the strife-ridden areas of former Yugoslavia.

The end of the Cold War presented an excellent opportunity for arms control and disarmament. Along with continuing to firmly uphold our three nonnuclear principles, I intend to make active efforts for the nonproliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and missiles. On the issue of nuclear nonproliferation, the way has been cleared for the IAEA to inspect the declared nuclear facilities in North Korea, but it is still necessary to get North Korea to be more forthcoming. It is thus essential that Japan continue to respond appropriately to the situation as it develops, and, maintaining close coordination with the Republic of Korea, the United States, and the other countries concerned, we will work for a peaceful resolution of this issue. Japan will also cooperate in other fields of arms control and disarmament such as in cooperating for the dismantling of the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons and ensuring effective implementation of the United Nations register of conventional arms.

Official development assistance has an important role to play in our efforts for world peace and prosperity. Japan is today the world's largest ODA [Overseas Development Assistance] donor country, and we intend to use this ODA effectively in line with Japan's official development assistance charter with an eye to encouraging the recipient countries' efforts to democratize, to ensure human rights and freedom, to shift to market economics, and to curtail military spending.

Along with using ODA and other means to contribute actively to resolving environmental issues, population issues, the AIDS epidemic, and the scourge of narcotics, refugee resettlement, and other issues, Japan will take leadership initiatives in the United Nations and other international efforts on these issues.

Japan and the United States have maintained a firm and active relationship over the past half-century. Although the relationship is currently beset with serious trade and economic issues, it is imperative that we cooperate to resolve these issues calmly and in the spirit of mutual trust. President Clinton and I have agreed that these issues must not be allowed to distort the broader Japan-U.S. relationship—a relationship that is moving to a new plane in which each of the two countries seeks cooperation while respecting the other's positions and judgments. The efforts under way for reform in both Japan and the U.S. will strengthen this bilateral relationship. It is essential, not only for our two countries but for world peace and development, that Japan and the U.S. continue to maintain close political, security, economic, and global cooperation relations and strive to further stabilize the Japan-U.S. partnership.

The Japan-U.S. security arrangements are increasingly important for security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, which is still fraught with destabilizing factors even after the end of the Cold War. Japan will continue to make the possession of an appropriate-scale defense capability and the maintenance of these Japan-U.S. security arrangements its fundamental defense policies. It is about twenty years since the national defense program outline was adopted to provide the guidelines for Japan's defense capability, and I believe it is now necessary to reexamine the outline's basic approach in light of the dramatic changes in the international situation and the remarkable scientific and technological advances that have been made since then. Getting ideas from a wide range of people, I hope to identify the basic directions for this process as soon as possible.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Once a battlefield, the Asia-Pacific region has today developed into one of the most promising regions anywhere in the world. The November 1993 informal APEC economic leaders' meeting bringing the region's leaders together was thus a historic event marking the start of a new era of regional cooperation. Attending this leaders' meeting, I had candid exchanges of views with the other leaders there and got the impression that there is a gradually but unmistakable groundswell of regional unity here. Political and security dialogues affecting the entire region are getting under way in earnest, and the ASEAN regional forum is scheduled to be convened this year with China, Russia and other countries also taking part. I do not intend to miss this opportunity to work to forge stable and open cooperative relations within the region.

Japan-China relations have made major strides forward with the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations and the 15th anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty of peace and friendship. I am going to visit China later this month and to hold candid exchanges of views with Chinese leaders, and I intend to work to have the cooperative relationship between Japan and China contribute even more to the international community.

In our relations with the Republic of Korea, as affirmed with President Kim Yong-sam in last year's summit meeting, we want to further expand our person-to-person and cultural exchanges and to work for the natural development of our future-oriented relationship. On the question of normalizing relations with North Korea, it is essential that we continue to carefully watch their moves on the nuclear weapons development and other issues.

President Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October laid new foundations for further development in Japan-Russia relations. While the situation in Russia is now less clear after last December's parliamentary elections and this January's cabinet reshuffle, Japan intends to make every effort for the resolution of the territorial issue and the full normalization of Japan-Russia relations in accordance with the Tokyo declaration signed during president Yeltsin's visit to Japan and to provide the appropriate support for reform efforts.

The European Union inaugurated last November represents further degree of integration beyond the EC, and this is also spreading to the North European countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. There can be no doubting that this more-integrated Europe will have a greater voice and will play an increasingly important role in the international community. I thus intend to broaden and deepen our dialogue and policy cooperation with our European friends with whom we share common values.

It is now about half a year since this coalition government was created embodying the fervent hopes of the people for Japan's rebirth. We have confronted a number of major issues during even this short period of time, yet these trials are only natural given that we have dared to choose a new and untrod path. The people's voice is my only guide in this unknown journey, I am determined to effect these great historic reforms in response to popular expectations.

In this, I ask again for your understanding and cooperation.

Opposition Criticizes Address

OW0403072094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The leader of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) blasted Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday for failing to explain his policy priorities in an address to the Diet.

The premier delievered a major policy speech to the legislature "in a very mechanical way," LDP President Yohei Kono told reporters.

He said he got the impression that the speech was "time-consuming but did not reveal what is important to us."

Improvement of strained bilateral relations with the United States is the issue of most concern now, Kono said, accusing Hosokawa of treating it as though it were a trivial matter.

The premier should have pointed in his Diet address to specific measures to jolt the nation out of the worst economic slump since World War II, he said.

Kono, the first LDP chief in nearly 40 years to be opposition leader rather than prime minister, also complained that Hosokawa failed to explain the muddle over his abortive plan to reshuffle his seven-month-old cabinet.

Hosokawa merely read a speech prepared by bureacrats without modifications, he added.

Asked what he will focus on when he questions the premier in the Diet next week, Kono said he will raise the question of what achievement the Hosokawa administration has made in the past seven months.

Hosokawa's coalition government ousted the LDP from power last August for the first time in 38 years.

Hata Delivers Foreign Policy Speech to Diet

OW0403100994 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0437 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Foreign policy speech by Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata to the 129th ordinary Diet session—live]

[Text] Upon opening the 129th ordinary Diet session, I would like to deliver Japan's basic foreign policy.

First, I would like to explain my view on the international situation. Now that the Cold War structure has collapsed, the world is exploring the new framework of peace and prosperity. The exploration, however, has a long way to go and the way is rocky. The present international community, which is in transition, is faced with uncertainty and unpredictability and has many tasks to accomplish. In the world economy, North America's economy is robustly recovering, but many other nations are suffering from recession and serious unemployment. As for regional conflicts, the first step has been taken toward sustained peace and reconstruction in Cambodia. Signs of settling the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and Somalia, despite concerted efforts by the international community, are still not visible. North Korea's suspected nuclear development and the possible proliferation of weapons of mass destruction following the breakup of the Soviet Union are threatening world safety. Such global issues as poverty in developing countries, the global environment, population, and refugees are getting serious. In this way, the international community is continuing to sail without a destination in these dramatically changing waves. I believe, however, that the international community will find a beacon to guide its voyage and the beacon is beginning to show the path we will have to follow. The beacon is a target that the international community will have to pursue through cooperation and collaboration and the target is to create a world where people can live in peace and prosperity. The international community has increasingly expected help from Japan, which has built today's prosperity in peace while pursuing the target. Japan should meet the international community's expectations and take responsibility for creating the framework of world peace and stability. To those ends, Japan's foreign policy is being asked to play a more aggressive role. [applause]

Next, in line with the principles I just stated, I would like to outline major policy tasks with which Japan will have to grapple. Worldwide economic stagnation and unemployment have resulted in an increase of protectionist moves and intensifying economic frictions. To build a fluent and prosperous world by preventing them, it is necessary for many other nations to promote policy coordination. It goes without saying that Japan, which accounts for about one-sixth of the world's GNP, has a responsibility to play a great role. The Uruguay Round was successfully concluded last December after undergoing difficult negotiations and I believe the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is a victory for the principle of free trade, the principle of open trade mutilateralism, and international cooperation. Faced with various difficulties, Japan was engaged in negotiations until the very end, and Japan insisted, to the maximum extent, on its rice position. Japan's decision to accept an agricultural negotiations accord, including the establishment of a special exception of comprehensive tariffication, contributed to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Japan decided to accept the agricultural negotiations accord with great pains from the standpoint of making its due international contributions. A cabinet ministers' meeting to sign the final documents is set to be held in Morocco and we are making full preparations for signing relevant agreement documents. I would like to ask the Diet to speedily ratify those agreement documents. Japan will work to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trade structure that is the basis for the prosperity of not only Japan, but for the rest of the world by scrupulously implementing the results of the Uruguay Round in the future.

Japan's economy remains unpredictable and Japan still runs a huge surplus. With this economic situation in mind, last month, the government announced a package of 15.25-trillion-yen economic stimulus measures which call for income tax cuts, an expansion of domestic demand, and the promotion of deregulation to revitalize the economy. I believe that promoting reform of the economic structure by steadily implementing the package and securing sustained economic growth led by domestic demand will contribute to the establishment of harmonized economic relations with foreign nations and the stable development of the world economy. As for deregulation in particular, it will serve to improve the quality of life for the people. I think that the government, therefore, needs to make further efforts for the deregulation. As foreign minister, I have felt keenly growing worldwide hopes for peace since I took office. In response to those hopes, Japan will have to do what it can do to fulfill them.

North Korea's suspected nuclear development is a threat to the peace and safety in Northeast Asia and is a major challenge to the nuclear nonproliferation efforts. It has been decided that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will conduct inspections at declared nuclear sites in North Korea. Progress in U.S.-North Korea talks will hold the key to clearing up North Korea's suspected nuclear development for the time being. Japan for its part will persistently urge North Korea to completely withdraw its decision to pull out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), completely implement an agreement reached with the IAEA, and come to agree with South Korea to announce a joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula while keeping close contact with such concerned nations as the United States, South Korea, and China.

From its position of seeking reinforcement of the multinational framework and the mechanism for preventing proliferation of mass destruction weapons, Japan supports continuation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. We are also playing a positive role in negotiations to enact a multinational ban on nuclear testing, which aims to further disarmament efforts by nuclear power nations.

Japan will also maintain its cooperative policy for those working to abolish nuclear weapons stored in the former Soviet Union. The Japanese Government signed the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC] last year, and is seeking the Diet's early approval of the treaty. Japan will also strongly support Ukraine's efforts to dismantle its nuclear weapons.

To cope with the recent proliferation of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, it is necessary to review and reinforce multinational trade control systems. Japan will positively engage itself in international discussions on this issue.

Disregarding such efforts by Japan, some foreign media have recently raised, without any grounds, questions about Japan's nonnuclear policy. As the only victim of nuclear weapons, Japan adheres to its triple nonnuclear principles [not to manufacture, possess, or import nuclear weapons], and its use of nuclear energy is limited strictly to peaceful purposes. So, I would like to emphasize again that Japan will never develop nuclear weapons.

It appears regional conflicts in former Yugoslavia and Somalia have been caused by ethnic and religious antagonism and it will be very difficult to settle them; however, the international community is patiently dealing with the problem. In particular, Bosnia-Herzegovina is still suffering bloodshed. Japan will continue its efforts to obtain peace, in conjunction with the United Nations and the individual nations concerned. In February, the government hammered out a package of policies for former Yugoslavia consisting of more humanitarian aid, economic assistance to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the reorganization of diplomatic establishments in the region.

In addition to diplomatic efforts and economic cooperation, Japan has promoted personnel assistance to settle regional conflicts through participation in UN peacekeeping operations in such nations as Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique. Participation in UN operations in Cambodia have cost our nation great sacrifices of life; however, we consider that Japan's presence made a big contribution to Cambodian peace. We would like to express our sincere condolences to those who were killed in helping to achieve that.

As part of Japan's assistance to peace efforts in Central America, Japan is planning to dispatch election monitors to El Salvador later this month. With ethnic and religious conflicts increasing in number, it is important for us to offer counsel for those in trouble. We would like to promote contributions which are suitable for Japan to make.

Under our definition, a humane world is one in which people can enjoy prosperity with the guarantee of freedom, democracy, and human rights. At present, reform efforts are being promoted to help the large number of people who favor democracy and a market economy. This is a great trend of history, and Japan will continue to offer positive support for the trend. While some developing nations are making incredible economic progress, most still suffer from poverty and hunger. We strongly believe the economic and social development of these nations is a necessary prerequisite for peace and prosperity in the world. To achieve this, we should consider not only economic assistance, but also comprehensive approaches which include the promotion of trade and investments.

Japan's assistance to developing nations is the most important pillar of its contribution to the international community, in the sense that this is the way we can best make good use of our experience in economic development. Last June, the government hammered out the fifth midterm objective of official development assistance [ODA] programs under which Japan will offer from $70 billion to $75 billion over the five-year period starting in the fiscal year 1994. In view of Japan's desire to play a role in this field despite the current severe economic situation, the government has proposed ODA spending of 1.634 trillion yen in the fiscal 1994 budget plan. Based on the government's ODA guidelines, we would like to obtain the understanding of the Japanese public, and the appreciation of aid-receiving nations for our peace and development-minded aid policy. Throughout last fall and this winter, Japan has taken the chair of international conferences on development in Cambodia, Mongolia, Indochina, and Africa. Japan is, thus, playing a leading role in multinational frameworks to support development, democratization, and economic reform in developing nations. We would like to maintain Japan's initiative in this field.

Global issues such as environment, population, AIDS, drugs, and refugee problems are serious concerns to the entire world. It is urgent for developed and developing nations to cooperate in solving these problems. In this regard, Japan intends to actively assist developing countries in solving environmental issues. Also, when the prime minister visited the United States in February, he announced Japan's plan to spend $3 billion, or about 300 billion yen, over the next seven years to assist developing nations in resolving population and AIDS problems. The International Conference on Population and Development is scheduled to hold its session in Cairo in September. Population problems are closely related to environment and development. Japan has been actively promoting efforts to contribute to the success of the meeting. For example, it sponsored a meeting of a wise men's conference on population and development in January. Now that relations of mutual dependence between countries have become deeper than ever, it is imperative to strengthen international cooperation to resolve the issues I have just mentioned.

Because the current international situation is severe, it is essential for Japan, the United States, and Europe to take the lead in promoting policy cooperation to tackle global issues. Japan intends to continue efforts to strengthen policy cooperation among Japan, the United States, and Europe on such occasions as summit meetings. Even under a new international situation, Japan's basic diplomatic policy of maintaining close, cooperative relations with the United States based on the security pact will never change. Japan-U.S. relations have become more and more important for ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Prime Minister Hosokawa visited the United States in February to hold the third summit meeting with President Clinton. Although the two leaders failed to reach an accord on the bilateral framework trade talks, they agreed that the disagreement should not affect bilateral cooperation in solving political, security, and global problems. Concerning the framework trade talks, I myself visited Washington one day earlier than scheduled to coordinate opinions on objective criteria and numerical targets. I met with Vice President Gore, State Secretary Christopher, Treasury Secretary Bentsen, and Trade Representative Kantor and eagerly negotiated with them to reach an agreement. However, unfortunately, the two sides failed to find a common ground on trade issues and decided to have a cooling-off period for the time being. Meanwhile, the two leaders discussed international affairs relating to North Korea, China, and Russia in their summit meeting, and their discussions reflected the breadth and depth of the current relations between Japan and the United States. Also, the two nations formulated an action program to promote cooperation in resolving global issues such as environment, population, and AIDS problems. During my recent visit to Washington, I also met with newly appointed Defense Secretary Perry and shared the same view with him about the importance of the Japan-U.S. security system. Japan-U.S. relations are currently in a tough phase over economic problems. While working for maintaining and deepening overall Japan-U.S. relations, I am determined to make all-out efforts to seek a breakthrough in the deadlocked economic and trade relations as early as possible to solve pending issues, thus further strengthening the Japan-U.S. partnership.

The European Union has entered a new phase of unification after the EU Treaty went into effect. It is more necessary than before for Japan to build relations with the EU on a firmer foundation. Based on the Japan-EC joint declaration issued in 1991, the government will further deepen relations with the EU as partners who share the same sense of values. Also, beyond economic and trade ties, the government will promote dialogue and cooperation with the EU to solve various problems common to the international community.

Amid drastic changes in the international community, there are many favorable factors in the Asia-Pacific region. The region has achieved remarkable economic development under relatively steady growth rates. Under these favorable circumstances, various forms of intraregional cooperation are being promoted in the region. In the political and security fields, an atmosphere for holding dialogue throughout the region has been rapidly growing in recent years in line with our conventional proposal. An ASEAN regional forum is scheduled to be held this year for the first time. In addition to member nations of the expanded ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, China, Russia, and other nations will attend the forum where foreign ministers will exchange opinions on political and security issues concerning the entire region. I believe that it is important to create a sense of security among various nations within the region by promoting transparency concerning every nation's policies through such a forum. The Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference exists as a framework for economic cooperation within the region. An informal APEC economic conference, which was held in November last year, made great achievements. For example, a future prospect for intraregional cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region as well as a direction for future cooperation were indicated at the conference. Holding the belief that intraregional cooperation in the political, security, and economic fields will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole, Japan hopes to take the initiative in promoting such cooperation in the future to turn the region into the very fountain of peace.

China is expected to become a more important entity not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also in the international community. Relations between Japan and China have been developing in a favorable manner. During my visit to China in January, I held meetings with President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and Qian Qichen, vice premier and concurrently foreign minister. I had frank and meaningful exchanges with them on bilateral issues as well as on international issues about which the two countries are concerned. Moreover, during Vice Premier Zhu Rongji's recent visit to Japan, I took the opportunity to have a meaningful exchange with him while keeping my visit to China in mind. Japan intends to build future-oriented relations between Japan and China as well as a bilateral relationship which will result in world contributions, and intends to further deepen cooperation between the two countries. Japan also intends to continue to cooperate with China in promoting its policy of reform and opening up.

The Korean peninsula constitutes an unstable factor in the Asia-Pacific region in view of North Korea's suspected nuclear development. Although negotiations between Japan and North Korea on normalizing diplomatic relations have been suspended, the government intends to tackle the issue while cautiously watching North Korea's future moves.

Under the circumstances, our relations with neighboring South Korea, which shares the common values of freedom and democracy, are increasing in importance. President Kim Yong-sam is expected to visit Japan as a state guest in late March. Our government will exert efforts to develop a broad, future-oriented bilateral relationship of cooperation.

In Indochina, a new government elected through free elections came into existence in Cambodia. Vietnam and Laos are also implementing liberal economic reforms. Japan proposed the organization of an Indochina development forum to deal with the development of the whole region, and this forum is scheduled to be held in the second half of this year. We intend to promote international cooperation in the future through this forum and other venues.

Democratization and economic liberalization have also gone a long way in Southwest Asia. Japan will assist such efforts, and work on nuclear nonproliferation in this region.

The United Nations is expected to play a very important role in world peace and stability. Further strengthening the functions of the United Nations is an urgent task. This year, a working level meeting will be convened on the reorganization of the Security Council, and wide-ranging discussions are expected both in Japan and in foreign countries.

Japan, as a nonpermanent member of the Security Council, has exerted earnest efforts in the past two years to work for the building of a more peaceful world. Today, there is increasing demand by international public opinion for Japan to play an even more active role in the United Nations. In response to such expectations, I believe Japan should assume whatever responsibilities it can. In promoting international cooperation, Japan's relations with other major nations and regions are important. President Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October was a very important visit that laid a new foundation for promoting relations between Japan and Russia. Parliamentary elections were held last December in Russia following the President's visit to Japan and President Yeltsin reshuffled his cabinet last January. The Russian situation still remains uncertain and Japan needs to closely watch Russia's future domestic situation. In Japan-Russia relations, Japan sent election monitors to

Russia when the parliamentary elections were held. Both Japan and Russia held working-level talks in February this year and they also resumed the meeting of the working group on the conclusion of a peace treaty. In this way, the two countries have been engaged in brisk political dialogue. At the private level, Japan, the United States, and Russia held the first round of the tripartite talks in Tokyo. Thus, Japan and Russia have held a broad-ranging dialogue. Under these developments, I will visit Russia this month. At a series of meetings with Russian leaders, I intend to reiterate that settling the territorial dispute and then completely normalizing diplomatic Japan-Russia relations will be important not only to the two nations but also to securing the peace and security of the Asian-Pacific region. I also intend to point out that it is important for Russia to continue its reform policies for democratization, market economy, and cooperative diplomacy which is conducted on the basis of law and justice. I plan to confirm with Russian leaders that as long as Russia continues those reform policies, Japan will aggressively support those reform policies.

Last September, Israel and the PLO agreed to issue a declaration on self-rule in Israeli-occupied lands and I myself attended a historic signing ceremony in Washington. Israel and the PLO have since worked to put the declaration into effect. Thanks to the efforts of the United States, Israel and Syria have held serious peace negotiations.

Japan is committed to providing $200 million in aid over the next two years to stabilize the life of Palestinians. Of the amount, it has already announced plans to provide $50 million. Aid from the international community is indispensable for promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. Japan will strengthen political dialogue with nations in the region and participate in multilateral talks on Middle East peace. It will continue to assist Palestinians.

In the Latin American nations, the market economy has been making steady progress and structural poverty remains a task to be tackled. Japan will continue to assist those nations' reform efforts.

In Africa, presidential and parliamentary elections were held last year in some nations and thus political reform is making a headway. Many nations are gripped by unstable domestic situations and they have difficulty overcoming their economic problems. Japan will continue to assist political and economic reform efforts by those nations. It also will assist those nations through bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

To keep the world in peace and stability, it is necessary to build a relationship of trust and deepen mutual understanding among nations. In a bid to deepen other nations' understanding of Japan, Japan will strengthen publicity activities and work to promote international exchanges. Last year, Japan hosted an international conference on Angkor Wat. It will aggressively cooperate with developing nations to preserve mankind's tangible or intangible cultural relics and promote their cultures.

Science and technology are the key to opening the future. It is important for Japan to steadily promote international cooperation to share them with other nations.

With the international situation still remaining unstable, the number of Japanese who carry out activities abroad is growing, and this is increasing the number of Japanese who are involved in accidents and crimes abroad. The government will strengthen measures to ensure safety for those Japanese. The government also will redouble its effort to speedily airlift back home Japanese who live in countries where civil wars or coups occur.

As I stated, in order for Japan to accomplish diplomatic tasks, it should respond properly to the dramatically changing international situation and conduct flexibly its diplomacy with a long-term perspective. I intend to work to strengthen preparedness for the conduct of Japan's diplomacy. But it is only possible to conduct our diplomacy with the people's support. I intend to continue to work to win people's understanding of Japan's diplomacy. I am in charge of conducting Japan's diplomacy at this time which is very important to the future of the international community and I feel awed at my duties. I would like to solicit further cooperation from my fellow dietmen and the people. [applause].

Hosokawa's Political Leverage Said 'Waning'

OW0403090694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, whose political leverage is waning following this week's abortive attempt to shuffle his cabinet, will face questioners in the Diet next week amid worsening relations with the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come to Tokyo next week to mend the strained bilateral ties or put further pressure on Japan to open its markets further.

Christopher's Tokyo visit follows President Bill Clinton's signing of an executive order to reinstate the super 301 provision of a 1988 trade law giving the President the authority to retaliate against countries deemed to be engaging in unfair trade practices.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, responding immediately to the U.S. action, called it "unilateral" and urged Washington to exercise care in applying super 301.

"Japan wants to resolve the case multilaterally rather than bilaterally," said Hata, suggesting Japanese readiness to bring the case to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Christopher will arrive in Tokyo on Wednesday as part of a four- nation tour of Asia and Australia. He will meet Hosokawa, Hata and other Japanese leaders during his three-day stay.

According to a senior State Department official, Christopher will discuss trade issues with Japanese leaders and warn Japan of a potential fallout beyond economics.

The secretary of state will play largely a listening role and has no plan to make any U.S. proposal on how to resolve trade disputes with Japan, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said.

Lord said the economic problems afflicting Japan and the U.S. "are very serious" and added they could spill over to other aspects of the bilateral relationship if left unattended.

Clinton, ignoring a Japanese plea, took the super 301 action after his talks with Hosokawa in Washington last month on a new trade framework for the two countries collapsed.

The U.S.-proposed framework is aimed at opening Japan's markets and reducing its huge trade surplus with the United States by setting specific targets.

The failure of the talks has drastically reduced the number of Japanese who think Japan-U.S. relations are good.

An ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper poll released this week said pollees who consider bilateral ties to be good plunged to a record low of 20 percent, down from 37 percent two months earlier.

Those who do not consider relations to be good increased from 42 percent to 64 percent, the poll found.

Hosokawa will appear in the Diet for three days from Monday to reply to questions from ruling and opposition legislators on his administrative policy speech delivered this week.

His political leadership was badly damaged this week as he failed to shake up his seven-month-old cabinet—an action aimed chiefly at dumping Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura.

Political commentators said Hosokawa wanted to get rid of Takemura because of growing differences in political outlook between the two, both former prefectural governors whose relationship was once described as close.

The abortive attempt has left a serious scar and split in Hosokawa's seven-party coalition between those supporting the prime minister and those backing Takemura.

Cambodian Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen are scheduled to visit Tokyo from Wednesday through Saturday to attend an International Conference on Cambodian Reconstruction in which the U.S. Secretary of State will also take part.

The International Committee on Reconstruction of Cambodia will be held on Thursday and Friday with the participation of 31 countries and the European Union as well as 12 international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Meetings of the Cambodian premiers with Hosokawa and Hata are also scheduled, and official Japanese sources said Japan will offer Cambodia some 9 billion yen in grant aid for fiscal 1994.

Other foreign dignitaries visiting Japan next week include Xiao Rong, the third daughter of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

Xiao, who often accompanies her father, will stay in Japan from Monday to Saturday in connection with a book she wrote about her father's life. The book was recently translated into Japanese.

She is a vice president of the China Association for International Friendly Contacts and a member of the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

Other events next week include a seminar Japan will host from Monday to Friday for 12 former Soviet republics on its measures on arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation.

It will be the first gathering including all 12 former Soviet republics to discuss controls on the export of technology with military application.

The seminar is designed to help the 12 establish an effective export control system to strengthen the nonproliferation of arms.

On the economic front, the Economic Planning Agency will release a monthly economic report Tuesday.

State Minister Yamahana Keeps Reform Post

OW0403071394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0618 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, state minister in charge of political reform, accepted a request by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday to remain in the cabinet to finish work on reforming the election system, government officials said.

Hosokawa asked Yamahana, former head of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), to proceed with drawing up districts for the 300 single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives, the officials said.

The request was made as the House of Councillors passed into law political reform package amendments that will replace the current multiseat districts with 300 single-seat constituencies and 200 seats allocated according to popular vote in 11 electoral units.

The package, which also revises regulations on political donations by corporations, will be enforced after enactment of a law delineating the 300 single-seat constituencies, expected this fall.

Hosokawa also asked Yamahana to study the possibility of lowering the age of voter eligibility from 20 to 18.

Fujii Sees New Signs of Economic Recovery

OW0403044794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii confirmed Friday some bright spots in consumption to support his assessment of the increasing chances of an economic recovery.

"The advent of demand for repurchases of durable consumer goods is expected," Fujii said in a fiscal policy address explaining economic issues and the fiscal 1994 budget package to a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

He added that phrase to an otherwise similar economic assessment to that made in his fiscal address to the House of Councillors in mid-February.

The latest statistics, led by the Bank of Japan's quarterly "Tankan" business sentiment survey, have pointed to recovering consumption in such durable goods as refrigerators and washing machines.

Fujii reiterated that the economy remains "tough in personal consumption and capital investment."

But "the time is steadily ripening for a recovery," he repeated, citing the new bright signs along with "progressing inventory and capital stock adjustments amid support from public investment and housing construction."

Fujii said the government has launched a record 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package, including 6 trillion yen in tax cuts, to "swell those recovery buds and move the economy toward full-fledged recovery as soon as possible in fiscal 1994 and ensure a stable growth in and after fiscal 1995."

He reiterated his "confidence" that the package, along with the recently enacted third fiscal 1993 supplementary budget and the fiscal 1994 budget submitted to the lower house, would "greatly contribute to a full-fledged recovery by clearing uncertainties ahead and encouraging a pick-up in domestic demand led by personal consumption."

On the monetary side, Fujii did not spell out any need for further policy measures, saying he hopes the effects of past policy measures will "spread further."

"Various interest rates have declined sharply...as a result of the latest round of official discount rate cuts" to a record low 1.75 percent, Fujii added.

Touching on the issue of full tax reforms for permanent income tax cuts, he stressed the government would pursue an agreement reached by the ruling coalition leaders to enact a reform law by the end of year in line with a "balanced tax system in income, assets and consumption."

Fujii reiterated he would take "timely and appropriate" measures to stem speculative movements "as seen recently" and keep stable currency rates reflecting economic fundamentals.

He stressed Japan's active contribution to global development and called for international policy cooperation through meetings of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven leading nations and a gathering later this month in Hawaii of finance ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

But Fujii did not offer any new measures to curb Japan's huge trade surplus.

On the global economy, he said, "some signs of a recovery can be seen, but they are not yet indicating a strong growth."

Among the leading nations, "efforts are necessary for economic restructuring with structural problems such as huge fiscal deficits and high unemployment."

Planning Chief Sees Hope of Economic Turnaround

OW0403045294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japanese economic planning chief Manae Kubota said Friday that although times are tough the government hopes for a turnaround in the coming fiscal year.

But despite some recent bright spots in official reports, the director general of the Economic Planning Agency offered little change in her economic policy address to a full session of the House of Representatives, four days before her agency releases its monthly economic report.

In contrast to Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, who has maintained that interest rates are low enough to help spur recovery, Kubota hinted that further loosening of credit may become necessary.

"On monetary policy, I think appropriate and flexible management is needed, while closely watching domestic and international economic movements and international currency conditions," she said.

Kubota said the severity of employment conditions is apparent in the broadly sluggish economy, marked by slumping personal consumption and falling corporate capital spending.

She had cited modest labor market improvements in such sectors as construction but had said conditions have not recovered.

She again expressed hope that Japan will meet the agency's official government forecast of 2.4 percent growth in gross domestic product in the fiscal year starting next month after an expected 0.2 percent gain in the current fiscal year.

Kubota also pledged the government's efforts to enact promised tax reform this year that fairly balances taxes on income, consumption and assets to promote a vibrant society for Japan's graying population.

She repeated her prediction that Japan's current account surplus will decline next fiscal year but offered no specific trade measures.

Wants SII-Proposed Spending Boost

OW0403034394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0320 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's chief economic planner on Friday proposed boosting spending on a 10-year public works investment project totaling 430 trillion yen to help accelerate the economic recovery.

"With the Japanese economy in a very important phase, now is the time to review the investment project," Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, told a news conference.

Kubota said the step would help facilitate a full-fledged economic recovery in fiscal 1994, which starts in April, and enable sustainable growth in the following year.

On financing the expansion, Kubota said she expects higher revenues from tax increases if the economy is put on a smooth growth track.

The plan to spend 430 trillion yen on public projects from fiscal 1991 to 2000 was worked out under Japan-U.S. trade talks called the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi supported Kubota's view, proposing that the government study the possibility of increasing outlays to 600 trillion yen, officials said.

Igarashi also urged the government to work out measures promptly to open markets other than housing and real estate, they said.

North Korea

Head of Delegation in U.S. Talks Issues Statement

SK0403110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Statement of Head of DPRK Delegation to DPRK-USA Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK Kang Sok-chu, head of the delegation of the DPRK side to DPRK-USA talks, issued a statement today regarding the ill-boding moves that the United States is showing, giving rise to doubt, in the implementation of the DPRK-USA New York agreement on the steps of simultaneous action.

Following is the full text of the statement:

As already made public, four immediate steps of simultaneous action for a package solution of the nuclear issue were agreed upon at the DPRK-USA contact in New York on February 25.

These steps cover the questions of discontinuing "Team Spirit 94" joint military exercises, resuming inter-Korean working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys and starting inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the continuity of safeguards, and the question of holding the third round of DPRK-USA talks in Geneva from March 21.

Most of the agreed steps have already entered into a stage of practical implementation.

Thus, new prospects have opened for bringing the process of a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue which had been derailed temporarily back to its original track.

It is lucky, indeed, that although it seems belatedly, both sides in the agreement confirmed again their stand to seek a negotiated settlement of the nuclear issue on the principles of the DPRK-USA joint statement and decided upon concrete steps and timetable of action.

The agreement on the steps of simultaneous action, however, has not been reached through a smooth process.

In the past, we have advanced reasonable proposals for a solution of the nuclear problem and made all sincere efforts to carry them into effect and shown a flexibility.

Since the second round of DPRK-USA talks we have fulfilled the obligations we assumed voluntarily, as far as we could, in the matter of negotiation with the IAEA and in the matter of North-South dialogue. It is well worth noting that, with a view to removing obstacles in the way of the talks, we put forth a new proposal that the nuclear issue be solved completely in a package deal based on the principle of simultaneous action by both sides.

If a solution of the nuclear issue had been promoted as proposed by us from the very outset, it would not have undergone such serious twists and turns in its course, and it would not have taken such a long time to reach a basic agreement on the steps of simultaneous action.

In fact, when we take into consideration the fact that half a century long history of confrontation and distrust has lasted between the DPRK and the United States, it is self-evident that either of them is not in a position to urge the other to show confidence first.

That is why we have held that if the sides wanted to find a reasonable solution to the problem on an equal and fair basis, they should not urge the other to move first but act simultaneously, and so, have repeatedly urged the U.S. side to respond to simultaneous action in this direction.

In the past, however, the U.S. side, far from sincerely accepting our just demand, raised unreasonable preconditions and resorted to delaying tactics, trying to force us to accept its unilateral demand and constantly seeking insidious political aims.

As is known, since it accepted our proposal regarding the steps of simultaneously action at the 18th DPRK-USA contact at the end of December last year and arrived at an agreement in principle, the United States openly came out in defence of the IAEA Secretariat which demanded we accept inspection equivalent to routine and ad hoc inspections pursuant to the safeguards agreement. Only recently, it tried to solve the problem by pressure after setting a deadline identical with the February meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors.

Such arbitrary and faithless stance of the other side toward the dialogue whipped all our people into fury, and we could not but make a legitimate self-defensive decision.

We expressed our firm will to take the road of our own choice, not bound to the promise with the United States, if it persisted in its policy aimed at stifling our Republic, reversing the spirit of agreement with us.

The United States requested resuming the New York contact before we carried this will into action. This was a good thing not only for a solution of the nuclear issue but for peace and security in the region around the Korean peninsula, we may say.

But the United States created new difficulties in the working out of the agreement, making it conditional on the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South of Korea, an internal affair of our nation, even after the scope of inspection for the continuity of safeguards was agreed upon between the DPRK and the IAEA.

We have rejected such persevering argument of our dialogue partner and warned them not to miss the opportunity of saving the dialogue from a crisis. When they withdrew the precondition and said yes to the text of agreement, we appreciated it deservedly.

The agreed conclusions on the steps of simultaneous action between the DPRK and the United States this time has created a favorable condition for the third round of talks and a package solution of the nuclear issue.

The DPRK and the United States, according to the formula of package deal agreed upon between them, must now take steps for a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue such as the termination of the U.S. nuclear threat and hostile policy against the DPRK, the introduction of light water reactors, the improvement of bilateral relations, the resumption of the IAEA's routine and ad hoc inspections of the DPRK's nuclear facilities, and put them into effect.

The package deal based on simultaneous action is the only practical and reasonable way for both sides to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue on a completely equal footing, not through confrontation.

This has been clearly proved by the whole course of the DPRK-U.S. talks, especially by the latest contact in which the sides agreed on simultaneous action.

If the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is resolved in a package deal, it would be decisively conducive to ensuring peace and security in the whole of the Asia-pacific region.

We will honestly implement the steps for simultaneous action agreed on recently and make every possible effort to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in a package deal.

The solution of the issue now depends on how sincerely the United States, a dialogue partner, works to fulfil its promise.

It is only too clear that, no matter what reasonable solution may be adopted, if a party obliged to implement it has no willingness to solve the issue, it is impossible to expect any substantial results.

Though just a few days have passed since the publication of the conclusions on simultaneous action reached between the DPRK and the United States in New York, ill-boding moves have been reported one after another, giving rise to doubt about the willingness of the United States to implement the conclusions.

The U.S. side made an official announcement that the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South and the IAEA's inspection are preconditions for the suspension of the "Team Spirit 94" joint military exercises and the opening of the third-stage talks between the DPRK and the United States

On March 3, it expressed full support for the decision of the South Korean authorities not to stage the "Team Spirit 94" conditional on the exchange of special envoys between the two halves of Korea.

All these are dangerous acts to endanger the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreement, which can never be justified.

As everyone knows, the DPRK and the United States set no precondition in agreeing on the steps for simultaneous action.

The conclusions reached at the New York contact only mentioned the resumption of the working contact for the exchange of special envoys between the North and the

South as a step for simultaneous action. But it did not touch on the fulfilment of the exchange.

As for the exchange of special envoys, the DPRK was the first to propose it, motivated by a noble intention to put an end to the tragedy of national division and realise the fellow countrymen's desire for reunification. To make it a success is our consistent position.

The exchange of special envoys has not been carried out, however, because the South Korean authorities have distorted the significance of the exchange by contending that it is aimed only at the solution of the nuclear issue, and tried to balk at the DPRK-U.S. talks through it and exacerbate the North-South confrontation blaring that they "will not rule out even a military action."

Only when the South Korean authorities stop such unreasonable acts as impudently poking their nose into the discussion of the nuclear issue without their own political view or authority to discuss the matter and make a clear turnabout towards seeking national reunification, the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South will be realised.

We are also willing to sincerely implement the agreement on the IAEA's inspection for the continuity of safeguards.

A group of inspectors of the IAEA began its activities on March 1 and the competent organ of the DPRK is rendering a proper cooperation in its activities.

At a time when the agreement has entered the stage of implementation, however, the U.S. side has brought forward again the unreasonable preconditions which it had failed to include in the conclusions, while fully supporting the conditions raised by the South Korean authorities. All this cannot be construed otherwise than factors which may lead to collapse the full implementation of the conclusions.

We take a serious view of the fact that the United States has set inter-Korean exchange of special envoys and the inspection by IAEA as preconditions for the renunciation of the "Team Spirit 94" and the opening of the third round of talks, because it will obviously result in reversing again the agreed conclusions on steps for simultaneous action.

Worse still, if those preconditions are accepted, it will cause the grave consequence that the right of decision at the DPRK-U.S. talks would pass to some seditious forces which hate it.

As prescribed in the agreed conclusions, unless all the steps of simultaneous action are implemented fully, all the agreed points will automatically go amiss.

We have agreed to the inspection by IAEA and the resumption of inter-Korean working contact on the premise that the agency will not take an unreasonable attitude in the course of the inspection for the continuity of the safeguards and the South Korean side will not abuse the exchange of special envoys for such insidious purposes as putting brakes on the DPRK-U.S. talks.

It is clear that, if the agency and the South Korean authorities bring forward complicated matters contrary to this and the United States gives up halfway the decision to renounce the "Team Spirit 94" joint military exercises and delay the opening of the third-round DPRK-U.S. talks under an absurd pretext, we can not satisfactorily ensure the IAEA's inspection that has already begun, nor can pin any more hope on the DPRK-U.S. talks itself.

It is high time that the DPRK and the U.S. faithfully implemented the agreed conclusions on steps for simultaneous action published a few days ago, conscious of their responsibilities and obligations in the solution to the nuclear issue.

We will watch the future acts of the dialogue partner.

KCNA Carries Highlights of Statement

SK0403112994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 4 Mar 94

["The U.S. Urged To Sincerely Implement DPRK-U.S. Conclusions on Simultaneous Action"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—We will honestly implement the steps for simultaneous action agreed on recently and make every possible effort to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in a package deal. The solution of the issue now depends on how sincerely the United States, a dialogue partner, works to fulfil its promise.

Kang Sok-chu, first vice minister of Foreign Affairs and head of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the DPRK-U.S. talks, declared this in a statement released today as regards ill-boding moves of the United States giving rise to doubt about its willingness to implement the conclusions on simultaneous action reached between the DPRK and the United States in New York.

He said:

The U.S. side made an official announcement that the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South and the IAEA's inspection are preconditions for the renunciation of the "Team Spirit 94" joint military exercises and the opening of the third-stage talks between the DPRK and the United States.

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Only when the South Korean authorities stop such unreasonable acts as impudently poking their nose into the discussion of the nuclear issue without their own political view or authority to discuss the matter and make a clear turnabout towards seeking national reunification, the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South will be realised.

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As prescribed in the agreed conclusions, unless all the steps of simultaneous action are implemented fully, all the agreed points will automatically go amiss.

We have agreed to the inspection by IAEA and the resumption of inter-Korean working contact on the premise that the agency will not take an unreasonable attitude in the course of the inspection for the continuity of safeguards and the South Korean side will not abuse the exchange of special envoys for such insidious purposes as putting brakes on the DPRK-U.S. talks.

It is clear that, if the agency and the South Korean authorities bring forward complicated matters contrary to this and the United States gives up halfway the decision to renounce the "Team Spirit 94" joint military exercises and delay the opening of the third-round DPRK-U.S. talks under an absurd pretext, we can not satisfactorily ensure the IAEA's inspection that has already begun, nor can we pin any more hope on the DPRK-U.S. talks itself.

It is high time that the DPRK and the U.S. faithfully implement the agreed conclusions on the steps for simultaneous action published a few days ago, conscious of their responsibilities and obligations in the solution to the nuclear issue.

We will watch the future acts of the dialogue partner.

Radio Details U.S., ROK 'War Exercises'

SK0403040494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2215 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] According to military sources, on 1 and 2 March, the U.S. imperialists flew pursuit-assault planes, vertical take-off and landing assault planes, and electronic jamming planes from their overseas bases in the skies over South Korea and conducted a provocative joint aerial war exercise for northward invasion with the puppets with the assistance of electronic jamming.

Prior to this war exercise, EA-6 electronic jamming planes of the 7th U.S. Fleet based in Japan and EH-60 electronic war helicopters based in South Korea flew the skies over Yongwol, Hoengsong, Paju, and Pochon and did full electronic jamming. After this, in cooperation with formations of pursuit-assault planes and vertical take-off and landing assault planes, which had taken off from the U.S. overseas bases, fighter-bombers and assault planes of the U.S. Air Forces occupying South Korea and the puppet Air Force flew by surprise to areas, where electronic jamming was on, and frantically conducted a bombing exercise simulating a surprise strike against the northern half of the Republic.

This reckless war exercise was conducted with the support of the OA-10 observation plane [kwanchukki], and approximately 350 military planes of various sorts were mobilized in the war exercise.

This game of fire was conducted for military planes of the 7th U.S. Fleet and air corps of the U.S. Air Forces occupying South Korea and the puppet Air Force to improve their capability to jointly launch surprise strikes for northward aggression with the support of electronic jamming.

As incited by the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean puppets frantically conducted war exercises for northward invasion in a frontline area close the DMZ.

On 2 March, large-caliber artillery units which are deployed in Yulli-ri, Chorwon-up, Chorwon County of South Korea, and Hapsu-ri, Yonchon County, Kyonggi Province, fired tens of cannon balls on areas close to the DMZ.

On 1 and 2 March, the armed villains of the puppet Armed Forces who are based in combat camps in Nosang-ri and Chomwon-ri of Paju County and Koang-ri of Yonchon County launched an attack in the direction of the Military Demarcation Line and frantically fired large-caliber machine guns and automatic rifles at random.

On 1 March, formations of armed helicopters and transport planes of the puppet Armed Forces flew the skies over frontline areas in Yonchon, Pochon, and Hwachon and frantically conducted an exercise to provide support to ground attack units and airlift troops and equipment to frontline areas.

On 2 March, tens of transport planes of the puppet Armed Forces conducted an exercise involving raids and special-purpose airlifting operations in the skies over Yanggu County, Kangwon Province, and promoted a warlike atmosphere.

The tension on the Korean peninsula is further aggravated, because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frantically kicking up futile war commotions against the northern half of the Republic one after another.

Hubbard's Remarks on South's 'NSL' Reported

SK0403050294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 4 Mar 94

["U.S. State Department Reaffirms Demand for Abolition of 'NSL' in S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. State Department reportedly reaffirmed Wednesday that the demand for the abolition of the "National Security Law" in South Korea was the official stand of the United States.

Commenting on the great sensation in South Korea caused by the remarks of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Hubbard urging the abrogation of the "NSL" in South Korea, its spokesman declared again what this senior U.S. Government official had said was not his personal view and what the United States demanded was not the revision of the "NSL" but its abolition.

Noting that the maintenance of the "NSL" was illogical, the State Department said what the United States demanded of South Korea was the abrogation of the "NSL" and this was the U.S. official stand.

This statement of the U.S. State Department came at a time when the South Korean puppet Foreign Ministry authorities met officials of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and asked them to inform the U.S. Government of the sensation created in South Korea by the remarks of the deputy assistant secretary of state.

ROK's Use of National Security Law Criticized

SK0403045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Sword-brandishing Cannot Be a Way Out"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique recently threw behind bars students of Chonnam National University and Choson University on the pretext that the Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils (Chongnyon) orchestrated a "violent demonstration" and "attempted to neutralize government power". It also arrested students of Kyongbuk National University by invoking the "National Security Law", charging them with "posting an article sympathizing with the North's demand".

An analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says: The fact that the Kim Yong-sam group makes patriotic students a target of ruthless suppression shows that they are now seeking in a more undisguised way dependence on outside forces, not national independence, and North-South confrontation, not national unity, and fascist rule, not democracy.

Nowadays the Kim Yong-sam group is invoking the "National Security Law" quite often, charging students with connection with the North. This reveals once again its wicked intention to follow the road of confrontation with the North to its dying breath.

The puppets' grumble about "violent demonstrations" of students is a ridiculous jargon reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!" Students have staged peaceful demonstrations urging the refusal of "parliamentary ratification" and renegotiation regarding the rice market opening, enraged at the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique's flunkeyist treachery in selling off the rice market. It is a duplication of the method employed by the military fascists of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics" to brand them as "rioters".

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique's fascist suppression will result in digging its own grave.

Kim Yong-sam's Remarks on Nuclear Issue Denounced

SK0403153294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Fool's Treacherous Color Revealed Again"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam in a "special interview marking the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Korean Broadcasting System" Thursday said he "cannot be optimistic" about the contact of working delegates for the exchange of special envoys and that "optimism is a taboo," according to a radio report from Seoul.

This is a very rude outburst throwing a wet blanket over the North-South working contact for the exchange of special envoys now promoted as part of the implementation of the steps of simultaneous action agreed upon between the DPRK and the United States. It is also a sinister attempt to create artificial obstacles and block the exchange of special envoys.

Kim Yong-sam's talk about "nuclear card of the North" was aimed at isolating and stifling the North by branding it as a "nuclear culprit."

While taking an insincere attitude toward the exchange of special envoys, Kim Yong-sam claimed that unless a "meaningful exchange of special envoys" is realised, the United States would never hold the third round of talks with the North." This is an imprudent outcry of a fool. It is ridiculous, indeed, for the colonial puppet who has no interest in the settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and has no say to obtrusively behave as if he were a spokesman of the U.S State Department.

This meant, in other words, that the traitor Kim Yong-sam ordered the United States to do this or that. But the folly of the colonial puppet wielding the baton at his master will make a cat laugh.

The traitor also talked about the "importance of the cooperation system." This revealed once again his true color as a dyed-in-the-wool flunkeyist and heinous traitor to the nation who stoops to any infamy to do harm to fellow countrymen.

Facts show that as long as Kim Yong-sam the fool remains at the "presidential" post in "Chongwadae," the Korean nation cannot live in peace even a moment nor can the desire of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and national reunification be realised.

The Kim Yong-sam group engaged in treacheries will have to pay for the arch crime it has committed against history and the people.

Daily on South Koreans' 'Anti-Nuke Struggle'

SK0403120394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Anti-War, Anti-Nuke Struggle Will Gain Momentum"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The ever-expanding anti-war, anti-nuke struggle of South Korean people is a just struggle for saving the fellow countrymen from a nuclear holocaust and achieving peace in the Korean peninsula, says MINJU CHOSON today. Commenting on the anti-war, anti-nuke demonstration staged by citizens and students in Seoul Tuesday after a rally marking the 75th anniversary of the March 1 popular uprising, the analyst says:

These days the United States is working to arm its troops present in South Korea with Patriot missiles and the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique, dancing to its drumbeating, is making a frantic bid to introduce this sophisticated weapon even into the puppet army.

The planned shipment of Patriots into South Korea by the U.S. and South Korean warmaniacs is a crime intended to drive the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The prevailing grave situation urges the South Korean people and students to turn out in the anti-war, anti-nuke struggle so as to remove the danger of war and defend the security of the nation. It is quite natural that they are vigorously waging this struggle.

The South Korean people and students will decisively crush the maneuverings of the U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique to provoke a nuclear war by invigorating the anti-war, anti-nuke struggle.

'Statement' Decries South Dumping Nuclear Waste

SK0403011794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2207 GMT 3 Mar 94

["Joint statement" issued by political parties and public organizations in Pyongyang on 3 March]

[Text] In connection with the fact that the random dumping of nuclear waste materials into the sea has recently been disclosed in South Korea, DPRK political parties and public organizations released the following joint statement:

Joint statement of DPRK political parties and public organizations:

The random dumping of nuclear waste materials into the sea has recently been disclosed in South Korea. This greatly angers the nation.

Data show nuclear power stations in South Korea dumped into the sea 142 trillion becquerels of radioactive waste materials in 1991 and 155 trillion becquerels of radioactive waste materials in 1992.

The South Korean puppets dumped 11,000 trillion becquerels, or approximately 100,000 curie, into the sea in the seven years from 1986 to 1992. This is an unimaginable, grave crime that artificially destroys the ecosystem and inflicts miserable nuclear damage on the South Korean people, in addition to fellow countrymen and mankind in general.

Generally speaking, radiation amounting to approximately 1.7 curie has damaged the ecosystem. It is not difficult to imagine the horrific, devastating consequences the massive nuclear waste materials, amounting to 100,000 curie that the South Korean puppets dumped into the sea, will bring to the ecosystem and the frightening catastrophes it will inflict on the South Korean people, in addition to fellow countrymen and mankind in general.

As is well known, if nuclear waste materials are dumped into the sea, they will contaminate or kill fish, shells, laver, brown seaweed, and other maritime resources and, thus, inflict fatal damage on the existence of the maritime ecosystem and people. Therefore, the London Convention bans the maritime dumping of high-intensity [kojunwi] nuclear waste materials. It also stipulates that dumping of low-intensity [chojunwi] nuclear waste materials in maritime areas must be over 200 miles away from continental shores [taeryuk yonan], where fish live, and over 4,000 km deep, where there are no volcanic activities and where man will not enter even in the distant future. It also stipulates that dumping in those areas is prohibited without notifying the International Atomic Energy Agency. A decision was adopted in 1993 on completely banning maritime dumping of nuclear waste materials.

The South Korean puppets' random dumping of nuclear waste materials into the sea is an unforgivable grave crime of flagrantly violating international law on respecting the natural environment and protecting maritime resources. Because of the uncouth ruling bunch, which ignores the law and destroys the environment at random, the South Korean sea is turning into a sea of death where all maritime resources are on the verge of extinction and the ecosystem and the people's existence are gravely threatened.

Because of the puppet clique's reckless dumping of nuclear waste materials in the South Korean sea, many sorts of fish have disappeared, fish are killed en masse, and seaweeds are dying. Moreover, in South Korea, women who ate fish contaminated by nuclear waste materials have given birth to premature or deformed babies, numerous people suffer from cancer and other incurable diseases and unidentified diseases, and fishermen's lives have become difficult because people will not buy contaminated fish.

This is none other than a crime of devastating the land where our fellow countrymen live and threatening the existence of our fellow countrymen.

Our country is called a 3,000-ri land of beautiful mountains and rivers because water is clear and because the scenery is beautiful, and it is all the better to live in because the land is fertile and because maritime resources are abundant for the land is surrounded by the sea on three sides. How can Korean [Choson] people who have a national spirit tolerate this utterly unforgivable crime of turning such land into a land contaminated by nuclear waste materials where man cannot live and how can people of the world who have conscience turn a blind eye to [panggwan] this crime?

The Workers' Party of Korea and all other political parties and public organizations on the northern half of the Republic sternly denounce the Kim Yong-sam ring's dumping of nuclear waste materials in the name of all fellow countrymen, describing such dumping as an antinational crime of severing the lifeline of the South Korean people and all fellow countrymen in general and of turning our country into a barren land [pulmojidae] contaminated by nuclear materials and as a flagrant violation of the international law and convention on protecting the natural environment and banning the dumping of radioactive waste materials.

The South Korean puppets' dumping of nuclear waste materials is unthinkable apart from the secret maneuvers to develop nuclear weapons in South Korea. The South Korean puppets' maneuvers to develop nuclear weapons which started in the early seventies under the U.S. nuclear umbrella have reached a very grave stage today. The puppets raise our nonexistent nuclear issue and viciously conduct an anti-Republic smear campaign. One of the reasons for this is to divert attention at home and abroad to the North and accelerate their maneuvers to develop nuclear weapons. Traitor [yokto] Kim Yong-sam himself told a news conference on the first anniversary of his inauguration a few days ago that the North has no nuclear weapons. In this way, he himself admitted that their anti-North nuclear commotions were a false smear campaign to harm their fellow countrymen and hide the truth of their nuclear development.

Even while pursuing nuclear development, the Kim Yong-sam ring babbles about even military countermeasures [kunsajok taeung] against someone else. Because it is so mean and shameless, the Kim Yong-sam ring unhesitatingly dumps nuclear waste materials, an antinational act against humanity [pan illyu chogin].

Even after running amok in toadyism, treachery, fascism, anti-North confrontation, and divisionist maneuvers, traitor Kim Yong-sam even kicks up maneuvers to dump nuclear waste materials. If traitor Kim Yong-sam is left intact, no one can expect independence and democracy in South Korean society or peace in the country and its peaceful reunification, and our fellow countrymen will not be able to escape from the danger of nuclear disasters [haekchenan].

The South Korean ruling bunch must immediately disclose its past dumping of nuclear waste materials and apologize to all fellow countrymen. If the South Korean authorities continue dumping nuclear waste materials and secretly pursue nuclear development, they will not be able to escape from the stern judgment of all fellow countrymen and history.

It is the South Korean people who will suffer the greatest damage from the nuclear waste materials that have flowed into the South Korean sea and who will be sacrificed first. The South Korean people must wage a popular struggle against the puppet ruling bunch's dumping of nuclear waste materials and develop this struggle into an anti-U.S. and antigovernment struggle by closely linking it to the antiwar and antinuclear struggle.

The South Korean ruling bunch's maneuvers to dump nuclear waste materials are a crime against humanity [panillyujogin pomjoe haengwi], which harms not only our fellow countrymen but also countries in our vicinity and various regions in Asia and the world. On this opportunity, we expect that political parties and organizations of various countries of the world, international organizations, and people of all countries that love peace and aspire for social justice and progress will pay due attention to the South Korean ruling bunch's maneuvers to dump nuclear waste materials, raise their voices against such maneuvers, and take appropriate measures to stop them.

[Issued] 3 March 1994, Pyongyang

Parties Demand ROK Apologize for Waste Dumping

SK0303234494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2236 GMT 3 Mar 94

["South Korean Rulers Urged To Open To Public Nuclear Waste Dumping and Apologize for It"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea and other political parties and public organisations of the northern half of Korea in a joint statement today demand that the South Korean rulers immediately open to the public their nuclear waste dumping and apologize to the whole nation for it.

Noting that the nuclear waste dumped into the sea by the South Korean authorities in seven years, from 1986 to 1992, amounted to 11,000 trillion becquerels (about 100,000 curies), the statement brands this as an anti-national crime to throttle the South Korean people and the whole nation and reduce the country to a barren land contaminated with nuclear substances and a crude violation of the international law and convention.

"The nuclear waste dumping by the South Korean puppets today is unthinkable apart from the nuclear development which is being promoted in secrecy in South Korea. Their nuclear development which began in the early 1970s under the 'nuclear umbrella' of the United States has entered a very grave stage at present," the statement says, adding:

"The puppets, taking issue with the fictitious 'nuclear problem' of the North, have launched a malicious anti-DPRK smear campaign. One of its purposes is to divert to the North the attention of the home and foreign public and then step up their nuclear development".

The statement continues:

"The traitor Kim Yong-sam is steeped in flunkeyist treachery, fascism, confrontation with the North and splittist moves and, as if it were not enough, is committing even radioactive waste dumping threatening the existence of the nation. With him left alone, the independence and democracy of the South Korean society and peace and peaceful reunification of the country cannot be expected nor can our nation escape the danger of nuclear holocaust.

"The South Korean ruling quarters must immediately open to the public their past nuclear waste dumping and apologize to the entire nation for it.

"If they continue dumping nuclear waste and promote nuclear development in secrecy, they will face a stern judgement by the entire nation and history."

The statement expresses the hope that the political parties and organizations and peoples of all countries and international organizations that love peace and aspire after social justice and progress, will lift up louder voices of condemnation, paying a due attention to the South Korean rulers' dumping of radioactive waste, and take necessary measures to check it.

Japan Said Blocking Resolution of Nuclear Issue

SK0403051094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Japanese Reactionaries Must Stop Running Riot"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The more desperately the Japanese reactionaries obstruct a solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula the faster it will precipitate their doom, warns NODONG SINMUN today.

The analyst says:

Recently, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone claimed that if the Democratic People's Republic of Korea refused to accept a "special inspection," the United Nations Security Council must not rule out possibilities of "economic sanctions." Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata urged the DPRK to take "steps to remove the suspicion of nuclear arms development," saying that "pressure for an inspection of the DPRK's military sites" would increase.

Such remarks can be made only by wicked fellows. Japan has no justification to poke its nose into the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The way for the solution to the nuclear issue through the DPRK-U.S. talks is now open.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be resolved only by the DPRK and the United States.

The recently published conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York includes no word of "special inspection."

Nevertheless, the Japanese reactionaries are impudently crying for a "special inspection" and "sanctions" by the United Nations Security Council. This is nothing but a move to impede the progress of the DPRK-U.S. talks at any cost by admonishing the United States and putting pressure on it.

This is aimed at stifling the DPRK by setting in motion even the UN Security Council.

While slandering the DPRK, the Japanese reactionaries are also seeking to find a pretext for Japan's nuclear armament. Japan intends to use the DPRK's "nuclear issue" as a playing card for stepping up its nuclear armament and soothing the worldwide concern over it.

Such a foolish act of Japan, however, cannot work.

We cannot but keep heightened vigilance in coping with the strained situation created by the full-scale acceleration of the nuclear armament of Japan.

Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Work Marked Abroad

SK0403021194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2211 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—March 1 is the first anniversary of the publication of "Abuses of Socialism are Intolerable", a historical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work exposed the reactionary nature of all abuses of socialism and their falsity and gave scientific answers to the questions of principle arising in defending the cause of socialism and carrying it to accomplishment.

The work has evoked widespread repercussions upon the political, public and press circles of the world in the last one year since its publication for the invincibility and profundity of its contents.

Former journalist of the Russian paper IZVESTIYA Ivan Robodap who had read the work said in an article titled "Hard Blow":

"Comrade Kim Chong-il, with a clear-cut analysis, dealt a crushing blow to the attempts to hamstring and reverse the true significance of the contents of socialism, labelling it as 'totalitarian', 'barracks-like' and 'administrative and commanding'. He completely unmasked the slanderers and renegades of the people's cause."

The revolutionary parties of the world are unanimous in saying that the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il gives perfect answers to the questions raised by the present times and serves as a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon for all the progressive political parties aspiring after the building of a new society. They adopted the work as their must book or passed decisions supporting it.

A meeting of the Political Bureau of the new Communist Party of Great Britain adopted the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il as a must book of the party and distributed it within the party, while the people's front of workers, peasants and students of Peru discussed the work at its political committee and adopted a resolution supporting it.

Seminars on the work were held by the group for the study of the chuche idea of Comrade Kim Il-song in Austria, the Burkina national group of the chuche idea, chuche idea study groups and organisations for friendship and solidarity in Nepal, Tanzania and other countries.

The Rwandan committee for the study of the chuche idea made public a statement supporting the work and mass media of different countries including "BOLSHEVIK", the magazine of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party, carried articles introducing the work. And figures of political, public and other circles issued statements explaining the importance and significance of the work.

Director General of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea Shuhachi Inoue who is the first winner of the "International Kim Il-song Prize", said after reading the work:

"Socialism collapsed in some countries. But this cannot change the trend of the time. Today, mankind sees Korean-style socialism, the tower of success of socialism which stands in bolder relief, and gains confidence in socialism and its prospect from it. Frankly speaking, socialism is immediately Korea and vice versa today."

Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain, said that the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il is a highly important work which deals a telling blow to the imperialists, world reactionaries and revisionists and inspires the revolutionary peoples of the world with hope and courage.

The work of Comrade Kim Chong-il is a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon which gives a decisive blow to the counterrevolutionary moves and dastardly sophism of the imperialists and the foes of socialism and powerfully propels the socialist movement in the present times.

Kim Chong-u at UNDP Research Base Inauguration

SK0403051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—A new research and supply base was commissioned at the Muxemm Institute of the Forestry Science Branch of the State Academy of Sciences according to the assistance plan between the DPRK Government and the UNDP.

The base will help industrialize the breeding of spores and making of cursing clods of earth and increase the production of mushrooms.

The inaugural ceremony Thursday was attended by Vice-Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Kim Chong-u and other officials concerned and resident representative of the UNDP in Korea G. Faruq Achikzad and officials of the UNDP mission.

Speeches were made there.

Cuban Embassy Officials Meet With Yi In-mo

SK0403052394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—Miguel Puentes, charge d'affaires ad interim, and officials of the Cuban Embassy here, Thursday met with Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will.

Miguel Puentes said the South Korean puppets could not break the indomitable faith and will of Yi In-mo despite all their attempts to make him recant his belief.

The indomitable fighting spirit shown by Yi is a precious example for the revolutionaries of the whole world, he stressed.

Yi said he is leading a happy life to his heart's content as he has the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He expressed thanks to the fraternal Cuban people who had vigorously conducted the solidarity movement for his repatriation.

Equatorial Guinea Supports Nuclear Stance

SK0403051494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in a statement on February 23 supported the stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea towards the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

It said: "Considering the attempts of the western powers to coercively solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula to be a big threat to the peace and security of the world, hoping for the further development of the bonds of friendship and cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in line with the principles of international laws and holding that the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula arousing a deep concern of mankind must be solved in a peaceful way as far as possible, the government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea supports all the proposals and measures put forward by the DPRK Government and advises the United States of America to accept the proposals of the DPRK Government."

Pamphlet on Reunification Issued in Sweden

SK0403014794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2214 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—The publishing house of the Communist Party-KPML (R) [Communist Party of Marxist-Leninist Revolutionaries] of Sweden issued a booklet "Korea, a Divided Country".

In the preface the booklet notes that a fine socialist system has been established in North Korea, but fascist dictatorship is rampant in South Korea.

The preface says the South Korean authorities, with a view to keeping the country divided forever, built the largest ever concrete wall under the aegis of the United States and have ceaselessly staged provocative military exercises against North Korea.

Saying North Korea put forward a proposal for reunification through a confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, the preface stresses this proposal is the best way of achieving the reunification of the country.

Leaders Attend Rally on Agricultural Tasks

SK0403014594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2245 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang mass rally was held at Kim Il-song Square today with the attendance of more than 100,000 people to thoroughly carry out the highly important tasks set by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his historic letter to the National Agricultural Conference.

Present there were Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san and Vice-President Yi Chong-ok who are Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and other senior party and state officials.

Kang Hyon-su, member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang municipal committee of the WPK and chairman of the Pyongyang municipal people's committee, delivered a report titled "Let us accelerate the ultimate solution to the socialist rural question under the leadership of the party."

He said the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his historic letter "For the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the socialist rural theses" addressed to the National Agricultural Conference, reviewed with pride the decisive victory won in the implementation of the socialist rural theses and clearly indicated tasks to finally solve the socialist rural question and ways for their fulfilment.

He stressed that the letter of the great leader is a militant banner of weighty historic significance in triumphantly solving the socialist rural question and thus consolidating man-centred socialism of our style and further exalting its might and successfully discharging the noble duty we have assumed for the times and history.

The reporter called for maintaining a constant upsurge in rural construction and agricultural production through energetic efforts for the thorough implementation of the highly important tasks laid down in the letter.

He laid emphasis on the need to develop in depth the ideological, cultural and technical revolutions in the countryside in compliance with the requirements of socialist rural construction on a new, higher stage.

"If the socialist agricultural cooperative economy is to be consolidated and developed still further and the conversion of cooperative property into all-people property is to be realised smoothly without any deviations, it is essential to increase the support of the towns to the countryside and material and technical assistance of industry to agriculture, further enhance the role of the county in socialist rural construction and give full play to the advantages and vitality of the chuche-based agricultural guidance system of our style," he said, and continued:

"Now the imperialists and reactionaries are making desperate efforts to isolate and stifle our Republic politically, economically and militarily. But all the agricultural working people should believe and follow only the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and become a fortress and a shield defending the party and the leader politically and ideologically and with their lives."

Speeches were made and a resolution was adopted at the rally.

At the end of the rally hundreds of lorries loaded with farming materials left for rural villages around the city.

Ways To Increase Agricultural Production Urged

SK0303130594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 3 Mar 94

["Technical Revolution, Important Way of Final Solution to Rural Question"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his historic letter "For the Ultimate Solution of the Rural Question Under the Banner of the Socialist Rural Theses" put forward a task to carry on the technical revolution energetically. NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article in this regard quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Our task at the present stage is to follow up the success in the rural technical revolution to advance the industrialization and modernization of agriculture to a high level".

The article says:

The promotion of the technical revolution is one of the most important tasks in the efforts for the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the rural theses. The task of the technical revolution laid down in the letter represents a just policy based on a scientific analysis of the present state of the development of agriculture in our country.

This state shows that only when we consolidate and expand the achievements made in the technical revolution while accelerating the ideological and cultural revolutions in the countryside, can we steadily raise the standards of industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture and win a shining victory in the efforts to finally solve the rural question.

The technical revolution makes it possible, above all, to solidify the material and technical foundations of agriculture by stepping up the technical reconstruction of agricultural production and thus make a dramatic progress in the solution to the socialist rural question.

In the past period the technical revolution has made a fast progress along the road indicated by the rural theses in our country, bringing irrigation and electrification to completion in the countryside and successfully bringing into reality the mechanisation and extensive application of chemicals as well.

The technical revolution also makes it possible to push ahead with the process of organical combination of cooperative property and all-people property while continually enhancing the leading role of the latter over the former.

To enhance this leading role is an important demand for the ultimate solution to the rural question and it is definitely guaranteed only by solid material and technical conditions. The technical revolution is an important way of creating material and technical conditions for constantly enhancing the leading role of all-people property over cooperative property and combining them organically.

When we energetically accelerate the rural technical revolution, faithfully fulfilling its tasks set by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his historic letter to the national agricultural conference can we make a signal progress in the development of the socialist rural economy and constantly increase agricultural production.

Daily Calls for Implementation of Rural Theses

SK0403025294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[NODONG SINMUN 1 March editorial: "Let Us Brilliantly Embody the Party's Socialist Rural Construction Program"]

[Text] The National Agricultural Meeting, which was held amid keen interest and expectations of our agricultural working people and the whole nation, has concluded after the successful conclusion of its work.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent an historic letter for the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the socialist rural theses to the National Agricultural Meeting and personally attended the meeting to encourage the agricultural workers.

The respected and beloved leader's letter is a program of socialist rural construction of our times and a militant banner that makes it possible to develop our country's rural economic work to a higher level. Agricultural workers and other people, bearing deep in their hearts the great glory of receiving the programmatic work that indicates the future road of socialist rural construction, are turning out in the struggle to implement it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic letter consummates the theoretical and practical matters for finally solving the rural question, the most difficult question in socialist construction, by dynamically accelerating rural construction along the road indicated by the rural theses.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: If we consolidate the position we have already taken up and launch a new battle by making more strenuous efforts, we will win a historic victory in the solution of the rural question, the most difficult question in the building of socialism.

Whether we finally solve the rural question under socialism or not is an important matter that affects the future of socialism. Through their long struggle to implement the great rural theses, our party and people have already solved basic problems in socialist rural construction.

We are on a high peak that affords the prospect of ultimate solution of the rural question. This is a great victory won by our party and people in their historic struggle for socialism and communism. The tasks of consolidating the position we have already taken up and ultimately solving the rural question in the near future lie ahead.

The work clearly indicates the road for intensifying and developing the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—will give more assistance to the rural areas, and will promote the overall rural economic work to meet the high demands of socialist rural construction.

Every system and content of the work embodies our party's firm will to complete, under all circumstances, the historic task for the ultimate solution of the rural question set forth in the socialist rural theses. Accordingly, the work is a guideline with which our party and people must persistently keep up in their struggle to protect, adhere to, and develop the our-style socialist cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic work, for the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the socialist rural theses, has a great theoretical and practical meaning in our people's revolutionary struggle and the implementation of the overall socialist cause.

The work, above all, is a militant banner that instills into the minds of our people and agricultural workers the conviction of the might of the chuche-based system of the socialist rural economy and the invincibility of our-style socialism and that powerfully encouraged them in the work for consolidation and development.

Our country's rural economic system set forth by the great leader is a superior rural economic system under which agricultural workers become masters of production and management and which continues to develop based on the principle of collectivism. We have not witnessed a more superior and advanced rural economic system anywhere in the world.

In the course of struggle to implement the rural theses, the feature of our rural areas has changed a great deal and our rural economic system has been strengthened and developed in every domain of politics, economy, and culture to the maximum.

The work proudly summed up the decisive victory won during the course of accelerating the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—changes in farmers' material and cultural life, and achievements in managing and operating cooperative farms. It also displayed the might and superiority of our rural economic system.

In this way, the work powerfully demonstrated that our socialist rural economic system is the one that provides free and creative life to the working people and is a superior system that makes it possible to push ahead with the tasks to assimilate farmers into the working class and industrializing agriculture.

From the work, we have come to learn a precious truth that the chuche-oriented socialist road lead by our party is the only road to the agricultural workers' true sense of life, happiness, victory, and glory.

The great leader's work is a highly important guideline in effecting a new revolutionary turn in our rural economy and in all sectors of agricultural production.

A difficult and enormous task of an unprecedented scale is set for the field of socialist rural construction today. We are carrying out the task of rural construction on a high stage in an acute confrontation with the enemies. The work sets forth the principles, specific tasks, and method for the successful acceleration of this task. The work comprehensively sets forth the struggle guidelines reflecting the new demands of the construction of our rural areas, such as the guideline on vigorously conducting ideological work for the agricultural working people and imbue them with a mind toward revolution, the working-class, socialism, and the chuche idea; the guideline on enhancing the technological and cultural standard of the agricultural working people in conformity with the demand of intellectualizing the entire society; and the guideline on realizing the industrialization and modernization of agriculture on a high level.

In particular, the guideline on intensifying the party's guidance in socialist rural construction is of important significance in building the socialist rural base firmly politically, ideologically, and in terms of class. If the tasks set forth in the work are thoroughly implemented, the socialist rural construction will bring forth a new revolutionary upturn, vigorously accelerating the complete victory of socialism.

The great leader's work is also an immortal classic work that further developed and enriched the revolutionary theory of the working class on socialist-communist construction with new and original contents. Solving the socialist rural problem is a creative work which no one has ever carried out. The great leader clearly saw through the future of our rural areas with his wisdom of second sight and scientific insight and put forth original ideology and theory for the ultimate solution of the rural problem, thus breaking new ground for the development of the revolutionary theory of the working class.

In particular, the great leader comprehensively elucidated in this work the principles, the method, and the timing of transferring cooperative ownership to all-people ownership. This is of important significance in the development of the revolutionary theory on rural construction. Thanks to the theories put forth in the work—such as the theory on creating the condition for transferring cooperative ownership to all-people ownership, the theory on carrying on this work by county as a unit, and the theory on correctly establishing the form and method of transferring cooperative ownership to all-people ownership—the way to solve the rural problem ultimately without the slightest deviation has been made available.

The great leader's work has now become a powerful weapon to crush the imperialists' sophism that socialism cannot solve the rural problem and the opportunist trend which excludes the revolutionary principles of the working class in rural construction. The justness and truthfulness of the ideology, theories, and guidelines put forth in the work will be thoroughly demonstrated in our practice of socialist construction which vigorously advances crushing the antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries.

We should wage a vigorous struggle to effect new upsurge in socialist rural construction upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's programmatic work, "For the Ultimate Solution of the Rural Problem Under the Banner of the Socialist Rural Thesis." All party members and working people should, above all, intensively study and assimilate the profound ideology and theory contained in the great leader's work. Important here is to deeply learn the wisdom of the leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the greatness of his achievements.

The great leader attached great importance to the problem of peasants and agriculture long ago and has made energetic efforts for its solution, and has led all sorts of work, large and small, arising in the development of rural economy. The work sums up the great leader's guidelines of rural construction, which he put forth and verified their might, and comprehensively incorporates the grand idea of rural construction which the leader [suryong] formulated. We should deeply cherish the great pride in accelerating socialist rural construction under the leadership of the great party and the leader [suryong]. All the functionaries and working people of the agricultural sector should deeply study the work in close connection with the specific reality of their county, their farm, and their work team, so that they can further deepen the work of adding luster to the great leader's leadership achievements.

To thoroughly implement the task presented in the work it is important for all the people and agricultural working people to firmly believe in the superiority of the chuche-oriented socialist rural economic system and the correctness of our party's socialist rural construction program. Historic lessons of socialist construction teaches that defending socialism results in victory and renouncing it brings about death in rural areas.

We should have the firm faith that the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style is the best and make all possible efforts to safeguard, defend, and glorify these noble gains. At the same time, we should implement our party's great rural construction program with the firm faith that we can realize without fail any difficult tasks in rural construction due to the single-hearted unity of our people around the party and the leader [suryong] and the mighty self-reliant national economy, which has the chuche-oriented industries as its pillar.

Further deepening and developing the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—in conformity with the demands of the new high stage of socialist rural construction is one of the important tasks presented in the work. We should define the ideological revolution as a most important and indispensable requirement for safeguarding, defending, and consummating the socialist cause and should vigorously wage ideological work among the agricultural working people. We should conduct in-depth indoctrination in the chuche idea by closely combining it with the indoctrination in the party's policy, the indoctrination in the revolutionary traditions, the indoctrination in socialist patriotism, and many other forms of ideological work, while putting primary emphasis on the indoctrination in the principle of the chuche idea. In particular, we should concentrate greater efforts on strengthening the indoctrination in class and the indoctrination in collectivism.

By strengthening the cultural revolution in rural areas we should constantly enhance the technological and cultural level of the agricultural working people, should thoroughly establish their tidiness in production and life, and should do away with the disparity in the conditions of their cultural life between urban and rural areas.

The task that we should carry out in the field of the rural technological revolution is vast. We should further consolidate the success in irrigation, electrification, mechanization, and chemicalization that has already been achieved and should further expand and develop it so that we can constantly enhance the level of industrialization and modernization of agriculture. In particular, we should develop the comprehensive mechanization and chemicalization of the rural economy into a high level. Along with this, we should develop agricultural science, actively utilize its success, and thoroughly implement our party's chuche-oriented farm method. Thus, we should make agricultural production more scientific.

To carry out the difficult and vast tasks arising in socialist rural construction today it is important to strengthen urban support for rural areas. We should further enhance the working class' revolutionary spirit, organizational spirit, and cultural level and, thus, should see to it that the working class further strengthen their leadership role in rural construction. At the same time, we should guarantee by all means industrial material and technological support for the rural economy.

All industrial sectors should give priority to producing and supplying fuel, energy, equipment, and materials required in agricultural production and rural construction in conformity with the demands of our party's agriculture-first policy. We should brilliantly carry out the historic task of eliminating the disparity between industry and agriculture in economic management activities and of gradually converting ownership by cooperative into ownership by all of the people on the basis of the success gained in the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

Practical experiences in our country clearly show that the party's leadership becomes the lifeline of socialist rural construction and overall socialist construction.

All party organizations should pay deep attention to rural problems and vigorously organize and mobilize party members and the working people into the struggle to implement our party's great rural construction program. All rural party organizations should substantially carry out the work of deeply explaining and inculcating among party members and the agricultural working people the profound ideologies and theories elucidated by the great leader in his work.

An infinitely bright vista is being opened for our socialist rural construction. We have the most correct socialist rural construction program and the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong].

Let all of us vigorously advance for the final solution of the socialist rural problem and for the victory of socialism of our own style by upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic letter and with the overflowing faith in victory.

South Korea

IAEA Team Inspects Yongbyon Nuclear Facilities

SK0403051794 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 94 p 1

[By Yu Chae-sik, from Vienna]

[Text] Hans Meyer, a spokesman of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], said on 3 March that the UN nuclear inspection team conducted the first inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities in a year.

He said: "The UN inspection team inspected nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, North Korea for the first time. After the inspection, the inspection team returned to the state guest house and reported this to the IAEA over the telephone."

Avoiding mentioning the details of the nuclear inspection, Meyer said: As I understand it, the six-member inspection team did not face any obstacle [ottohan changae-edo chikmyonhaji anun kosuro algo itta] in the course of the inspection of the nuclear facilities in North Korea.

U.S. Official Cited on Improving DPRK Relations

SK0403004494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0018 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Washington, March 3 (YONHAP)—A senior State Department official, declaring that "legal flexibility" is needed to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, urged the U.S. Congress not to adopt any more legislation that would impose additional legal barriers to lifting existing economic sanctions against Pyongyang.

The United States is prepared to move toward improved political and economic relations with North Korea, said Lynn Davis, undersecretary of state for international security affairs. "To implement this approach," she said, "we will need legal flexibility to use both inducements and potential sticks' to influence the North," Davis said.

"Therefore, we do not favor any legislation that would impose additional legal barriers to lifting existing economic sanctions (against North Korea," she said. Speaking at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing Thursday, Davis said, however, that North Korea must make a clear commitment to resolving the nuclear issue in the near future. "It must demonstrate in actions, not just words, that it is renouncing a nuclear weapons capability," she said. "That means the North must remain a member of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and implement its IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) full-scope safeguards agreement, including special inspections and any other measures needed to clear up past discrepancies," she said. In addition, she said Pyongyang must work with Seoul to fully implement the North-South denuclearization declaration.

"If the North executes the agreement we reached in December, and its recent understanding with the IAEA on inspections needed to maintain the continuity of safeguards, the way will be open for a third round of U.S.-North Korean talks," Davis said. But if North Korea fails to implement the agreement, then the issue will be returned to the U.N. Security Council for further action, including sanctions, she said. In the meantime, Davis said the United States and South Korea have continued to take prudent measures to ensure that "our defenses" remain strong.

"At the request of the U.N. commander of U.S. forces in Korea, General Luck, we have been considering a decision to deploy a Patriot missile battalion in South

Korea," she said. This would be a defensive deployment in response to North Korea's missile capability, and is a prudent military step in light of the prevailing tension on the Korean peninsula, she said. "We are continuing to consult with South Korea on this matter, with the predisposition that we will go ahead when the time is right," she added.

Minister, U.S. Envoy Meet on Hubbard Remarks

SK0403074994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0731 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu expressed regret Friday over U.S. officials' recent negative comments about Seoul's national security law, regardless of their innocent intentions.

Han, meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney, complained that such references create the impression that South Korea has human rights problems despite its democratic progress, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Laney, handing over a written statement of explanation, apologized for U.S. officials' having unintentionally hurt the feelings of South Koreans with their remarks.

Laney's statement said Washington is fully aware of Seoul's great strides in democracy and human rights, and "unequivocally recognizes the fundamental shift in attitude and policy of the Kim Yong-sam administration towards human rights," as acknowledged by the 1993 human rights report.

The controversy started when U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Tom Hubbard told a seminar last week that Washington wants to see Seoul repeal its national security law.

The comment sparked immediate protests that it was undue interference in South Korea's internal affairs, while raising suspicions that the issue had been discussed with North Korea since Hubbard was chief U.S. working-level nuclear negotiator with Pyongyang.

Indeed, Hubbard was in the middle of last-minute bargaining with North Korean officials when he made the remark last week.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday that the United States hopes the "Korean Government and the Korean people might find it appropriate to no longer have that law in effect" because it is "subject to abuse and a reflection of an earlier time."

Laney said the U.S. officials' comments should be seen "as remarks of close friends and democratic peers."

"I have unqualified confidence in (South Korea's) human rights practices and its respect for the rule of law," said Laney in his statement.

Han, while calling the remarks ill-timed, said he personally believed they came out "accidentally."

"The security law is now revised but at the U.S. working-level, images of the past apparently remain and that tends to show up in high officials' speeches and press briefings," he said after meeting Laney.

"We think the comments were accidental, but we still needed to drive home a strong message to prevent a repetition of similar remarks that could be made due to lack of understanding of the current security law," he said.

Editorial Terms Hubbard's Remarks 'Meddling'

SK0403015394 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "US Meddling"]

[Text] A senior U.S. State Department official's remarks last week expressing a desire to see South Korea abolish its National Security Law have not been generally welcomed here in Korea. The remarks, contained in a key-note speech delivered by Thomas Hubbard, deputy U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, at a seminar on U.S.-South Korean relations in the Pacific era sponsored by American University, in fact have touched on a raw nerve in many quarters.

Though Seoul wants to play the dispute down, this is the first time that any senior U.S. government official has publicly expressed a desire to see the controversial Korean law repealed. We particularly wonder what motivated the chief U.S. delegate to the working-level contacts between Washington and Pyongyang on the North Korean nuclear issue to express this desire, whether officially or privately, just before inter-Korean dialogue was due to start. Even if the remarks were made as a bona fide suggestion to a close ally, they can be criticized as interference in the domestic affairs of a foreign country.

Needless to say, the National Security Law, which was enacted immediately after the Republic of Korea was founded in 1948, is a by-product of the tragic Korean division into South and North. The law from that time contributed greatly to the protection of South Korea's system of free democracy and to deterring the North Korean communists in their continuous attempts to infiltrate into and subvert the South throughout the 1950-53 Korean War triggered by Pyongyang.

On the other hand, the law has long been disputed by critics who claim that with its excessively comprehensive and ambiguous punitive provisions against anti-state acts and "acts benefiting the enemy," it contravenes the general rule of law and the principle that crimes and the punishment due them must be specified concretely.

Besides that, the security law was abused to suppress anti-government elements by the previous military governments.

Consequently, notably after the June 29, 1987 democratization package was declared, the opposition forces began to strengthen their calls for the abolition of the law in the cause of democratization and the protection of human rights. They cited the fact that the situation has changed significantly since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc in Eastern Europe, South Korea's establishment of diplomatic links with Russia and China and the adoption of the historic inter-Korea agreement to simultaneously join the U.N.

For its part, the Seoul government has maintained its stand that it should not abolish the controversial domestic law as long as North Korea continues to stick to its policy of seeking to communize the South by force as provided for in the preamble of the Workers Party charter and Article 11 of its new socialist Constitution. At the same time, the government is prepared to reduce the scope of acts subject to the law substantially. We should remind ourselves the north Koreans have persistently demanded for more than two decades that Seoul repeal the law which it has denounced as a tool to suppress human rights.

We find it strange that a ranking U.S. official should be speaking for Pyongyang in connection with human rights in South Korea, and not taking issue with the terrible violations of human rights in North Korea. No one can overlook the grim fact that the North Korean criminal code has provisions for death sentences and property confiscation in punishment of a wide range of anti-state offenses including simple dissidence and political opposition.

The security law in the South must be only a temporary law, but it should be abrogated if and only if North Korea truly abandons its plot to communize the South, irrespective of whether the two Koreas are unified or not. In the meantime, it is also hoped that the security law will be amended to more restrictedly apply in such a way that safeguards both human rights and the nation's security at the same time. Only in this way can the basic order and free democracy be kept intact. This kind of law amendment is suggested on the basis of a national consensus, namely through a compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. But now it is premature to abolish the law.

We presume that the U.S. official may have uttered his suspicious remarks in response to an adamant call in the U.S.-North Korea nuclear contacts that it do so. Our government should urge the U.S. to request Pyongyang that it change its horrible criminal law and discontinue its Stalinist despotism before expressing a desire to see an ally scrap a security law.

Daily: Hubbard's Remarks Elicit 'Agreement'

SK0403050394 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 4 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S. Demand for Abolition of the National Security Law"]

[Text] The old issue of repealing the National Security Law has emerged again to be a matter of great concern, according to remarks by a senior U.S. Government official. Tom Hubbard, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and the Pacific affairs, said in a speech delivered at a university: "The ROK has successfully established democracy, and the human rights situation has considerably improved. The U.S. Government, however, still hopes the ROK Government will repeal the National Security Law."

Answering a question regarding this at the National Assembly, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said that the ROK has never been informed of the U.S. Government's official position in connection with the demand for abolition of the National Security Law. I think, however, Mr. Hubbard's remarks reflect the U.S. Government's intent, in view of the U.S. State Department's criticism in its annual "Human Rights Report" released on 31 January pointing out "the National Security Law is still used to repress the freedom of expression, gathering, and travel."

The U.S. view elicits our agreement as we have repeatedly urged the abolition of the National Security Law. Nevertheless, it is unpleasant that such insistence basically equals intervention in domestic affairs [naejong kansopsong chujang]. If the government's inflexible negative [pujongjok] position on repealing this law is still steadfast, I would like to ask the government if it is willing to officially protest to U.S. Government. In order to undergo [sohwa] the affront [moyok] to us by the United States, who we have considered a friendly nation, our government should review several things coolly.

The government should review, above all, whether the situation of human rights in the ROK has sufficiently improved befitting a civilian government. The guarantee of human rights at the level in Western countries must become our ultimate and this is what the United States desires. The human rights situation in our country still lags behind the level we have tried to restore since the military dictatorial regime. Many conscientious prisoners are still suffering hardships behind bars, and the government does not have a deep interest in their release. This is one of the factors that prove the above. How can the government explain the inconsistency that it is pushing ahead with the South-North dialogue and summit talks while considering North Korea an antistate body [pan kukka tanche]?

The government also needs to closely examine if this incident [satae] is a sign of delicate changes [mimyohan pyonhwa] in the U.S. Government's policy on North Korea. It does not have to pay attention to the fact that

Mr. Hubbard has been the chief delegate to North Korean-U.S. contacts in New York, or to his expected role in the forthcoming third round of North Korean-U.S. high-level talks. The government must remind itself of the fact that it is the first time a U.S. high-ranking official has openly mentioned the abolition of the National Security Law, although the United States has recognized that this law is being used to repress people's human rights, as revealed in the annual "Human Rights Report." We now need to have enough keen insight to understand that the United States cannot help but make some changes in its policy toward North Korea to improve relations and to predict what those changes will be.

It is needless for us to explain again why the National Security Law—which, backed by anticommunist ideology, has been abused as a means of infringing upon human rights—must be abolished. I would like to stress again, however, that various issues can be resolved at the same time upon the abolition of this law.

Military Opposed to Team Spirit Suspension

SK0403030494 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 94 p 4

[By reporter Ha Chun-u: "Suspension of 'Team Spirit' Exercise—'A Military Concession' for Nuclear Inspection of the North"]

[Excerpts] The announcement of the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise—a joint mobilization training exercise between the ROK and the United States—was a concrete step of concession by the ROK and the United States in connection with the North Korean nuclear issue.

Ever since the Team Spirit exercise started, North Korea demanded its suspension, defining it as "an offensive training exercise intended for a Northward invasion," and put forward its suspension as a precondition for the resolution of the nuclear problem.

The ROK and the United States created an atmosphere favorable for enhancing North Korean nuclear transparency by accepting the North Korean demand, although with conditions. [passage omitted on nature, background of Team Spirit]

Since the Team Spirit exercise has been used as a negotiating card up to now, it is likely that North Korea will continually put forward a demand for additional military concessions, including the complete suspension of the Team Spirit, at negotiations.

However, relevant military officials expressed their position that the Team Spirit exercise, which is one of three elements supporting the ROK-U.S. joint defense system, in addition to the U.S. Forces in the ROK and ROK-U.S. joint command system, should no longer be the target for negotiations.

Thus, the military raised voices expressing concern about the possibility of Team Spirit, which is not related to the nuclear issue, being delayed and becoming nothing but a name, due to the North Korean delaying tactics.

In particular, the United States proposed that the Team Spirit be conducted every other year on the pretext of reducing security expenses and the scale of the exercise, including the participating troops, be reduced. In view of this, the military officials are worried that the United States may make additional concessions pertaining to the Team Spirit exercise.

This being the case, the relevant military officials maintain that as long as North Korea continues an arms buildup, not giving up its will for war, even after it abandons nuclear arms development, alternative steps should be taken in a bid to supplement the temporary suspension or reduction of Team Spirit so that the ROK-U.S. joint defense system remains consolidated.

DPRK's Ho Chong To Return to Pyongyang

SK0403003994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0031 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Washington, March 3 (YONHAP)—Ho Chong, the chief North Korean representative at working-level contacts with the United States, will return to Pyongyang this weekend, officials at the North Korean mission to the United Nations said on Friday. Ho has been working as Pyongyang's deputy chief of mission to the world body.

A North Korean official disclosed the scheduled return of Ho, saying "he will return to Pyongyang this coming weekend, if there is no problem in reserving an airplane seat." Meanwhile, a source in Washington said Ho may be promoted to an assistant minister-level post for U.S. affairs due to his leading role in Pyongyang-Washington working-level contacts.

Dailies Assess Working Contact With DRPK

SK0403074694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports, articles, and editorials from the ROK's vernacular press published on 4 March regarding the 3 March North-South working-level contact held at Panmunjom to discuss the exchange of special envoy issue.

The conservative daily CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,300-word editorial under the headline "North Korea's Endless Demands." The paper notes that during the 3 March working contact, North Korea demanded that Patriot missiles not be brought into South Korea and that President Kim Yong-sam remarks' saying that "we will not shake hands with people with nuclear arms" be "canceled officially," in addition to its previous demand for the suspension of Team Spirit and the abandonment of the international cooperative system.

Stressing that "pending North-South problems" can be discussed through the exchange of special envoys and that "more difficult problems" can be handled by holding a North-South summit, the editorial points out that the North Korean demand illustrates that "it is not interested in the envoy exchange," and urges Kim Il-song to "apologize" for having triggered the 25 June "southward war of aggression" before North Korea demands the "cancellation" of President Kim's remarks.

Denouncing the North Korean "haughty attitude," the editorial asks: "For what weak points should we always be dragged and ridiculed by the North Korean authorities?"

Predicting that North Korea will show only the "least false sincerity" in an attempt to realize a third round of U.S.-North Korea high-level talks slated for 21 March, the paper condemns the North for always putting forward "difficult conditions" after reaching an agreement in principle, referring to our "experience" in the past North-South dialogue. Pointing to "many more difficulties and obstacles" laid on the road toward the settlement of North-South problems, the editorial calls for an "essential reform" in our attitude toward the North-South dialogue and for refraining from "making public" our targets for the dialogue and other plans pertaining to North-South relations, including public references to a North-South summit. The editorial urges our side to come to the contact with the North with "a fair and square attitude" and to employ even "the strategy of boycott" if the situation does not turns out as we wish.

The moderate daily TONG-A ILBO publishes on page a 1,300-word editorial entitled "Preposterous North Korea." Noting that North Korea uses "negotiation strategy" intended to "disregard" the South Korean allegation, the paper points out that North Korea has not changed this strategy in the recent contact for envoy exchange, and that its demand for the cancellation of President Kim's remarks and for the abandonment of the plan to deploy Patriot missiles is "preposterous" and "embarrassing."

The editorial says that since the U.S. delegate to the negotiations talked about the "abolition" of the South Korean National Security Law, North Korea will not remain "silent" on this issue. North Korea will further attempt to "gain more concessions" while repeatedly putting forward its previous conditions. Warning that we are apt to regard North Korea as "easy negotiation partner," the editorial points out various the "misjudgment" made by our government in the past in dealing with North Korea, and urges the government and people "not to be insulted" by the North Korean attitude any longer.

The government-supported daily SEOUL SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 1,300-word editorial under the headline "North Korea Should Keenly Realize the South Side's Intention To Suspend Team Spirit." The paper says that as the result of the beginning of the nuclear inspection of North Korea by International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], a North-South working contact was held for envoy exchange and that the South side announced the "suspension" of the Team Spirit exercise with a view to urging the North to accept the inspection and come to North-South dialogue with "sincerity." Stressing that now is the time for North Korea to work for ensuring "nuclear transparency" and for "improving North-South relations," the editorial calls on North Korea to accept a "special inspection" of the two undeclared sites on which "suspicion of nuclear development" has been concentrated and to accept "mutual inspections" between the North and the South. Recalling the North Korean "stereo-typical strategy" and "preposterous demands" during North-South negotiations, the paper warns that if North Korea "stubbornly adheres to such strategy," the Team Spirit exercise will be "immediately" resumed. The editorial calls on the North Korean authorities to be "keenly aware of the significance" of our government's announcement on the suspension of Team Spirit.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO publishes on page 5 a 2,000-word article by Chon Chong, deputy editor-in-chief of CHUNGANG ILBO, under the headline, "'Experimentation' by Scholar-turned Diplomatic and Security Affairs Team."

Pointing to the "negative view" of the people toward North Korea- U.S. negotiations on the North Korean nuclear issue and toward our government's countermeasures, the article points out that from the outset, people were concerned with the "scholar-turned diplomatic and security affairs team" of the civilian government and that the people are now aware that "Kim Il-song is waging a wild game with the United States using the nuclear issue as his bargaining card." The article stresses that North Korea's final goal is to establish diplomatic relations with the United States, because North Korea believes it must improve these relations if it is to avoid "international isolation" and "economic crisis," and maintain its political system.

The article notes, however, that while the United States is aware of North Korea's delaying tactics, it has been unable to circumvent North Korean "stubbornness." Commenting on our government's sandwiched position between the U.S. and North Korea, the article says that high-ranking diplomats and government officials are showing increased skepticism on our "stick and carrot" foreign policy on North Korea and on Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu's "optimism" on North Korea-U.S. talks and other North-South issues. Thus, the people "undisguisedly" indicate that there are "problems" in the "strategic concept" of our scholar-turned security team, including Minister Han, in diplomatic negotiations. Referring to remarks of a high-ranking U.S. delegate leading dialogue with North Korea that, "I can never understand the North Korean intention. North Korea is, indeed, a shuddering partner," the article warns that adherence to an "appeasement policy" creates "strategic problems," and calls for "cool observation" of public opinion.

The moderate MUNHWA ILBO publishes on page 2 a 1,500-word editorial under the headline, "We Should Look at the Future." Explaining the process in the past North-South working contact, the paper says that the stalemate in talks can be attributed to the South's "passive attitude" and the "insincerity" of the North Korean authorities' in evading the talks. Pointing out the significance in the resumption of contacts, the editorial urges the government to address North-South relations "in an independent, more positive manner."

Government 'Regrets' U.S. Super 301 Revival

SK0403011294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea has protested the United States' decision to revive the Super 301 trade provision, demanding that Washington adhere to world trade rules rather than resorting to unilateral action.

"The South Korean Government regrets that the U.S. administration decided to revive the Super 301 provision on March 3, at a point when the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks had been concluded after seven years of negotiations and when the world trade organization is to be formally launched from 1995 after an official signing next month," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman reminded that Seoul had repeatedly stressed in South Korean-U.S. economic talks that trade disputes should not be dealt with through the domestic procedures of any single nation.

Seoul re-emphasizes its belief that disputes "should be resolved through the strengthened and supplemented settlement procedures of the world trade organization," the spokesman said.

Official on Effect of 'Super 301' Revival

SK0403082394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0704 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy today pointed out that the U.S. revival of the Super 301 trade provision conflicts [ogunnanun kosirago] with the Uruguay Round spirit and expressed concern that the U.S. action may hamper [chohae] the newly established world free trade order.

Urging the United States to exercise control in invoking the Super 301 clause of its own volition [chauijogin supo 301 paltongul chaje], Han Yong-su, director of the ministry's Trade Cooperation Division, said: I do not think the U.S. action will immediately effect ROK-U.S. trade relations fundamentally [kunbonjogin] because ROK-U.S. trade is currently fairly [pigyojok] balanced and because the two countries are headed towards resolving matters of mutual interest through consultation channels.

Director Han said: If the United States takes action regarding the ROK, we will solve problems that arise from U.S. actions according to dispute-settlement procedures of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization.

He also said: The government will utilize various channels to prevent incorrect or false information on the ROK from making its way into the annual U.S. report on each country's trade barriers. At the same time, it will support active dialogue between ROK and U.S. businessmen through ROK-U.S. industrial cooperation channels in nine areas which include the computer and semiconductor sectors.

Government Defines N-S Trade as 'Internal'

SK0403010594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0058 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government on Thursday defined inter-Korean trade as internal dealings by the Korean people based on racial self-determination as provided for by international law.

In a document submitted to the National Assembly, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry noted that the Republic of Korea's Constitution stipulates that the Republic shall consist of the Korean peninsula and its adjoining islands: That the basic inter- Korean agreement put into force in February 1992 provides for economic exchanges and cooperation between North and South Korea such as joint resources development, merchandise trade as internal transactions of the Korean people and joint ventures; and that the U.N. Charter expressly permits racial self-determination.

When West Germany subscribed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the GATT recognized inter-German trade as an internal matter of the German people, the ministry said. The German case set a precedent for the two Koreas, and there is no need for GATT recognition of inter-Korean trade as internal business dealings of the Korean people, it added. Some foreign countries are moving toward regarding inter-Korean trade as international trade subject to tariffs.

Rise in Interest in Trade With DPRK Noted

SK0403013794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean businessmen's interest in North Korea has risen sharply since Pyongyang decided on Feb. 16 to permit International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its seven declared nuclear sites.

The number of National Unification Board-approved applications for contacts with North Koreans almost doubled from 14 in January to 27 last month, according to the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry.

The increase was particularly conspicuous in the week starting Feb. 18, with 11 applications filed, indicating that the North's acceptance of IAEA inspections has raised southern businessmen's expectations on improved inter-Korean ties, including better business relations.

Of the 27 applications approved in February, 17 concerned forming trade relations with North Korean businesses and the remaining 10 covered investment in joint ventures with North Korean partners.

Of the 11 applications approved after Feb. 16, however, only two were for establishing trade relations and nine for investment in joint ventures.

An application filed by the Hanhwa Group in the names of five group executives, including chairman Song Nakchung of Kyong-in Energy, after North Korea's inspection decision covered joint-venture investment in constructing oil storage facilities and petrochemical factories along the west coast of North Korea.

Hyosong Corp. applied to contact a North Korean firm on setting up a joint-venture knitwear factory, while Cheil Food & Chemicals sought a joint-venture food processing factory.

Of the 233 applications filed last year, only three were turned down, ministry officials said. Total applications this year will more than double the number filed last year, they added.

Businessmen Seek Ties With DPRK Trade Official

SK0403140094 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by Yun Sun-hwan: "We Must Seek Kim Chong-u's Personal Connection in North Korea"]

[Excerpts] Since 1989, departments in charge of North Korean affairs or relevant employees responsible for North Korea affairs concerning new business development projects and overseas development sections of the conglomerate groups have been meeting with North Korean officials in third countries such as China, Hong Kong, and Macao, with the authorization of the National Unification Board. These meetings with North Korean officials are intended to maintain contacts with the North Korean team, which wants economic cooperation with South Korea, in preparation for the settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue. [passage omitted]

Although business circles are interested in the role of Hong Sok-chong, who succeeded Kim Tal-hyon as chairman of the State Planning Committee, they attach more importance to the role of Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee and chairman of the committee to promote the External Economic Commission, who is part of the so-called "opening trio" along with Premier Kang Song-san and Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon. [passage omitted]

A figure who is in charge of North Korean affairs for a conglomerate group said that "it is difficult to earnestly approach the North Korean team—which wants to promote economic cooperation with South Korea—led by Kim Chong-u, because the North Korean nuclear issue has not yet been completely resolved and its economic team has not been reorganized." He added that "some progress has been made as a result of ROK enterprises' constant attempts to make a personal connection with Kim Chong-u." [passage omitted]

Analysis Shows Negative Growth in DPRK Economy

SK0403010294 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Article by So Yang-won: "North Korean Economy Turned to Opening—Analysis of Trends in Second Half of 1993 by National Unification Board"]

[Text] It was revealed that the North Korean economy recorded negative growth for the past four consecutive years, and is still in "a vicious circle of poverty."

"The Trend of North Korean Economy for the Second Half of 1993," released by the National Unification Board [NUB] on 28 February revealed that agricultural production in North Korea showed a 15 to 20 percent decrease from the previous year due to damage by cold weather; and the mining and construction industries maintained only the production level of the previous year due to supply shortages of energy and raw materials.

Cho Kon-sik, an intelligence analysis officer in the NUB, said that "the plant operation rate in North Korea last year remained merely 40 percent of that in 1992, thus showing no improvement. This level is very close to the lowest productivity limit in North Korea. Therefore, we may say that the North Korean economy has achieved no more than 'zero-point growth,' no matter how generously one may evaluate the situation."

Viewing the result of North Korean external trade, it is true that trade with China has increased. However, trade with Russia and Japan decreased. As a result, the trade amount remained $2.7 billion—the level of 1992.

According to a latest statistic of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, North Korea's export of steel, iron, and cement to China was very active, while its import of grains and oil drastically increased, thus marking a trade amount of $90 million—a 29.2 percent increase from the previous year.

Meanwhile, border trade of daily necessities has been brisk between small-scale businessmen and local governments in North Korean-Chinese border areas. Such trade amounted to approximately $70 million last year.

As North Korea has not been able to overcome such economic difficulties, it applied laws and regulations pertaining to the opening of Najin and Sonbong free economy and trade zone, and has now launched full-scale economic cooperation with China.

Nevertheless, North Korea still tightly controls its citizens, counter to the policy of opening. As a result, two contradictory situations, namely "opening" and "maintaining the system," coexist in North Korea.

In fact, North Korea concluded 11 agreements on economic cooperation with China, Cambodia, and Finland during the second half of last year.

Taking a step forward from merely receiving Chinese trade investment delegations, North Korea dispatched a Nampo municipal trade delegation on 11 October; a Chonjin municipal friendship delegation on 1 December; and a North Hamgyong Provincial economic delegation on 13 December, to three provinces in the northeast China and to Yonbyon autonomous district, thus showing the active will for opening.

It is believed that North Korea's positiveness in opening will gradually become more visible with the ultimate change in the political situation, including the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and progress in the North-South dialogue.

Reception of DPRK Broadcasts 'Not Desirable'

SK0403003794 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Kim Min-pae]

[Text] Speaking on the cable television network system on 28 February, Information Minister O In-hwan said that the government plans to allow the Christian Broadcast Network to begin broadcasting beginning next year and will issue additional permission to air culture, art, cartoon, and home-shopping programming. Minister O also revealed that "since North Korean broadcasting programs consists of only half of the truth and half is intended for instigation, reception of North Korean broadcasts by the domestic press and radio is not desirable."

Minister O said that the government plans to discontinue production of tht Taehan [Korea] news by the National Film Studio beginning next year, and will intensively review the plan for effective utilization of 102 staff workers now working in this studio.

PRC Asks ROK Support on UN Rights Resolution

SK0403020594 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] On 3 March, Chinese Ambassador to the ROK Zhang Tingyan visited the Foreign Ministry and met with Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong. Ambassador Zhang asked Vice Foreign Minister Hong to support the Chinese side's position when the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva puts to a vote the "resolution for calling for the promotion of human rights in China" slated for 8 March. Vice Foreign Minister Hong stressed that "human rights are a dignified value which should not be infringed upon under any pretext," and revealed a position "to prudently review the issue by taking into account special relations between the ROK and the PRC."

PRC Firm Plans Direct Inter-Korean Sea Route

SK0403034294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—A shipping firm in Yanbian autonomous district for ethnic Koreans in northeast China is promoting plans to open a direct sea route between North and South Korea, business sources said on Thursday.

Yanbian Shipping Co. is negotiating with the South Korean Government via its Seoul agent, Korea Special Shipping Co., about its plans to have a 499-ton container ship sail between South Korea's Pusan and North Korea's Chongjin once a week.

Foreign ships operating irregularly between North and South Korea now carry goods as there is no regular shipping service linking the two.

If the route is opened, the Chinese shipping firm will use it to transport goods chiefly between South Korea and Yanbian, rather than between the two Koreas, as there are rail links between Chongjin and Yanbian, the sources said.

An official of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration said his office had not yet received an application for opening a sea route between Pusan and Chongjin from the shipper.

"When we receive the application, we'll decide on it after consulting with related government ministries," he added.

President Interviewed on Nuclear, Domestic Issues

SK0403091194 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

["Exclusive interview" with President Kim Yong-sam by Korean Broadcasting System, KBS, anchorman Yi Yun-song at the Chongwadae, presidential office, in Seoul on the 21st anniversary of the founding of KBS, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yi Yun-song] How are you? When I was entering the Chongwadae presidential office I felt spring had arrived. I understand you do jogging every morning. What do you at dawn?

[Kim Yong-sam] It is still chilly at dawn. It is March, so I can feel spring is coming. [passage omitted on jogging habits]

[Yi] Mr. President, thank you very much for your response to our request for this interview despite your busy schedule. The date 25 February marked one year since you took office. You are now entering the second year. Most of the people know the method, content, and style of your management of state affairs through the mass media. The purpose of my visit here today is to hear more of them directly from Mr. President; for instance, the background in making policy decisions, managing state affairs, and so forth. Mr. President, what were your plans and objectives in managing state affairs during the past year?

[Kim] We cannot say the previous governments were strong governments because they failed to enjoy the people's support and because they were not the governments that were entrusted by the people. On the other hand, however, the present civilian-led government is a government entrusted by the people and a government chosen by the people. Therefore, the present civilian-led government can dignifiedly carry out politics for the interest of the country and the people as stipulated in the Constitution. In other words, the present government is a legitimate government, so it can dignifiedly ask the people to do what they should do. It accepts our people's demands, if they are considered to be reasonable.

To make a clean and honest government is a very important task. I think only such a government can become a strong government and enjoy the people's support and love.

[Yi] Inspection activities continued last year in order to eliminate all sorts of old social and political corruption and irregularities. These activities enjoyed praise from people at home and abroad. However, there were also voices of resistance and complaints from some former privileged people. How do you assess the past year?

[Kim] I have said that the past year felt like 10 years or so. I think that during the past year I have done a lot of work in eliminating all sorts of past corruption and irregularities. One of the most important tasks the previous governments failed to implement, which our civilian-led government has accomplished, is the adoption of the real-name financial transaction system. With the adoption of this system, the people can receive due compensations for what they have done—shedding sweat. Another important task that our government has accomplished was the adoption of the system of revealing the private property of public servants, including myself. With the adoption of the system, those who have accumulated property through illegal means had to leave their posts. This system will be enforced in the future, too, on a continuous basis. This kind of reform is unprecedented in our history, and, therefore, is a revolutionary event.

I stress here that my plan for reform and change will continue. It is very difficult to complete the work of reform and change in one year. However, the effectiveness of our work for reform and change is presently being witnessed in our society. In other words, our society is now in the process of reform and change. Many changes have been implemented among both upper and lower grade public servants. I think we should concentrate more efforts on carrying out reform and change among lower grade servants.

[Yi] What difficulties have you had in carrying out your work for reform and change during the past year?

[Kim] I was well aware of the president's duties and responsibilities because I had a long career in politics. After I took office, however, I came to realize that my prior understanding of the president's duties and responsibilities was limited. I know some people hold that I am enforcing one-man politics or a one-man dictatorship under the civilian-led government. This is indeed a wrong assertion. Under the presidential government system, the president should assume responsibility for all things. So, it is wrong to say that I am enforcing dictatorship under the civilian-led government. I am just performing responsibilities assigned by the people. When I make serious decisions I am often engulfed in agony and feel lonely because I have to make a final decision alone without consulting with other people.

[Yi] These reforms and changes are efflorescing in our society. Yet, there is still a field where the work of reform and change has not been smoothly carried out. It is precisely our political field. What do you say about the reform movement in the political field?

[Kim] Changes in the political field are very important. Politics should change. Our politics have never changed, still the same as the politics of 20 years ago, 30 years, and 10 years ago. Whenever an opportunity presented itself, I stressed the need for reform and changes in the political field.

To achieve reform and changes in the political field, elections should be clean. So, the bills which have been submitted to the National Assembly this time for deliberation are in fact revolutionary bills. I mean the bills on elections. If these bills are passed at the National Assembly the politics of our country will become advanced ones. As long as political corruption and corrupt elections exist, our country cannot become an advanced country. I know a country where political corruption and illicit elections have been perpetrated. Of course, I would not identify the name of the country here. Anyway, political corruption and illicit elections are indeed a misfortunate phenomenon. That country is undergoing difficulties these days. This is because of the lack of clean politics and clean elections. Only when clean politics and clean elections are conducted can people's awareness of genuine politics be changed. Illicit elections are to drive people into depravity and ruin.

[Yi] Last January you met the three former presidents. Afterward, many Sixth Republic figures were released from prison. Witnessing this, many people have raised the voices of worry that your will for reform is being enfeebled. What do you think of this?

[Kim] It is entirely different from facts. Of course, the assessment of the three former presidents may be various. Among them are the presidents who were not directly elected by the people. However, meeting the former presidents as the president of the civilian-led government is also meaningful.

The release of Sixth Republic figures is a matter on the rights of the Judical Branch. So, we cannot argue on this matter. We should not link the meeting of the three former presidents to the release of the abovementioned figures. [passage omitted]

[Yi] Last year, many foreign heads of state visited our country. You met many heads of state at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] meeting. Also, you had summit talks with U.S. President Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa. While traveling overseas what image did you witness foreign countries had toward the ROK?

[Kim] The establishment of the civilian-led government has completely changed the image of the ROK. In a nutshell, I think that democracy is the supreme value. Under the previous regimes our diplomacy was not properly and smoothly carried out. The strongest power in diplomacy is precisely democracy itself. At the meeting of heads of the ROK missions in the Asia, Pacific, and American regions held in Seoul I told them that they should become salesmen. I urged them to make their best to increase our international competitive power.

The United Nations publishes a report on human rights once a year. The ROK has been a target country of this report. However, since the civilian-led government was established, our country has become a human rights screening member country in the United Nations. The position of our country has changed completely.

[Yi] I understand you are scheduled to visit Japan and China this year for summit diplomacy. What are your expectations?

[Kim] The importance of these two countries is very great in today's pan-Pacific era. In terms of our security, the two countries are also important. Japan and China are among our three major trade partner countries. So, my visit to these two countries will be closely related to our future economic development. Deep and detailed discussions will be held for bilateral economic cooperation. I think that my visit to the two countries will become a great turning point in respective bilateral relations. The two countries participated in the APEC meeting. This fact also gives more significance to my planned visit.

Of course, Russia, which is one of our neighboring countries, is very important to us. We cannot disregard the importance of Russia. I cannot make a visit to this country at this time.

Anyway, if economic cooperative relations are smoothly achieved, our country's future will be very bright. [passage omitted]

[Yi] The greatest pending foreign policy issue is the inspection of the North Korean nuclear facilities. The North Korean nuclear issue is a problem which we are directly concerned with, and it is a difficult problem to solve for the world as a whole. Fortunately, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection team has entered Pyongyang to conduct official inspections. In Panmunjom, a working contact is being held for the exchange of special envoys. How do you think this problem will be solved? If it is not solved, what measure do you think will be necessary?

[Kim] The North Korean nuclear program should be stopped by all means. This is necessary not only for the survival of the 70 million fellow countrymen but for peace in Northeast Asia and the world. This is a problem directly connected with our survival and for peace on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, I think we should mobilize all means possible to solve this problem.

Fortunately, the IAEA inspection has started. The working contact for the exchange of special envoys is being held. We cannot be too optimistic at this stage, for we have undergone numerous critical stages in our relations with North Korea. We cannot expect that everything will be settled smoothly. We will have to overcome some more critical points. However, now that North Korea is permitting the nuclear inspection, the so-called nuclear card has left the North Korean hand. I think the inter-Korean dialogue, therefore, has to make considerable progress. The United States has promised us that it will not hold the third round of high-level talks with North Korea unless there is significant progress in the exchange of special envoys. North Korea has also officially announced it will do so.

What is most important at the present stage is that we are handling every matter in close cooperation with the United States. The United States has always consulted us on their contacts with North Korea. At times, the United States even halted the talks with North Korea to have time to discuss matters with us.

I think what is most important to the ROK is maintaining such a close cooperative system with the United States. If the exchange of special envoys and inter-Korean dialogues proceed as we intend and North Korea's nuclear development program is hindered, we could promote relations with North Korea in various areas, including the economic sector.

I think North Korea should acknowledge the fact that the ROK is in a position to actively help it improve relations with the United States. It would be foolish of North Korea to think that it can discuss this issue without the ROK.

[Yi] In a recent news conference, you said that the precondition for the exchange of special envoys is holding a summit. You even said that you would meet with the North Korean president when you believed it conducive to keeping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. When do you think it will take place?

[Kim] It is hard to predict now. I will have to judge the timing by watching the development for the exchange of special envoys. [passage omitted]

President Speaks at Naval Academy Graduation

SK0403065794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0620 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Chinhae, March 4 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Friday that South Korea should look to the Pacific Ocean in helping to open a new Pacific era along with advanced nations. President Kim made the remark while delivering a speech at the commencement ceremony of the Korea Naval Academy's 48th class in Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province.

"The people who exploited the sea have prospered and, in the economic war era of 'survival of the fittest,' it is even more important to exploit the sea," Kim said. The central stage of world history is moving to the Pacific Ocean, Kim added, and exchanges and cooperation in the Pacific region are increasing rapidly.

"Your mission of protecting the sea is becoming more and more important," Kim said. Kim noted that the military has been able to fulfill its mission as a military of the people and as their final fortress.

"I hope that you will lead change and reform in the military as the new generation, and I ask you to make personal sacrifices to build a credible Navy."

"I myself will make strong efforts for better treatment and promotion of your prosperity, so that you can concentrate on your mission. I will see to it that professional soldiers feel they are performing an honorable job for the state and the nation."

President Comforts Families of Crash Victims

SK0403070694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Friday morning visited a military hospital where the bodies of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Cho Kun-hae, his wife and four others killed in a helicopter crash on Thursday lay in state, offering condolences to their bereaved families. He was accompanied by Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae and Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong.

Kim told Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Choe Tong-hwan and other Air Force leaders to make thorough preparations for the victims' funerals, which the government will hold as an Air Force rite. The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs has decided to pay the victims' bereaved families compensation totaling 280 million won (350,000 U.S. dollars).

Gen. Cho's family will receive 109 million won, Maj. Kang Song-yun's (pilot) 51 million won, Capt. Yu Yong-chae's (co-pilot) 34 million won, Capt. Yi Sang-hun's (Gen. Cho's aide) 40 million won and Msgt. Chon Hae-won's (navigator) 46 million won. The government will honor them all, providing a decoration for Gen. Cho and special promotions for the other.

Meanwhile, an Air Force team investigating the crash found the helicopter's voice recorder late Thursday night and turned it over to the National Scientific Investigation Institute for closer examination. Partially damaged, the recorder contains taped communications between the pilot and the flight control officer, which is expected to reveal the cause of the crash.

The Air Force is considering two reasons for the crash: Engine failure due to poor maintenance and the pilot's failure to cope with a sudden weather change.

Assembly To Vote on Revisions to Election Law

SK0403040694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly, on the last day of its special session Friday, is to adopt revised election bills providing legal and systematic grounds for the political reform advocated by President Kim Yong-sam.

Negotiations on revision of the election law, the political fund law and the local autonomy law resulted in an eleventh-hour compromise between the ruling and opposition parties earlier Friday.

The revised legislation is expected to stand as a turning point for the establishment of "a new political culture" in this country, where politicians could engage in activities "that do not need money," as the slogan of the Kim Yong-sam administration goes.

In a nutshell, politicians on both sides could compete on an equal footing from now on, unlike in the past when pro-government politicians enjoyed abundant campaign funds and strong organizations while oppositionists had to resort to demagoguery.

In an interview with the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Thursday night, President Kim described the new political laws as "revolutionary" and said they are needed if Korea is to join the ranks of "advanced" nations in the true meaning of the term.

The new election law provides punishment for parliamentary, gubernatorial, mayoral and local assembly candidates who spend more than the legally mandated amount during the permissible period of campaigning.

The spending limit for a presidential candidate is 22.5 billion won, down from 36.5 billion won. A candidate for the National Assembly can spend up to 53 million won, down from 120 million won. The amount is smaller for candidates running for local office.

An election will be nullified if a candidate spends more money than legally allowed or if a candidate's family or campaign workers are found to have violated the election law.

Candidates convicted of violating the election law will be banned from running for elective office for 10 years.

The new law abolishes the system of paid campaign workers and prohibits political parties from holding rallies during campaigning periods. Such rallies had served as occasions for bribing voters in the past.

All candidates are required to disclose their personal assets. They are also allowed to make as many outdoor campaign speeches as they want.

The political fund law allows an individual to contribute up to 150 million won to political parties, up from the current limit of 100 million won. The government's subsidy to political parties will rise to 800 won from 600 won per eligible voter.

The revised local autonomy law stipulates that all four local elections be held at the same time. It also calls for increased allowances for local council members and their aides paid by the state.

• Article Notes Changes in Student Movement

942C0061A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 9 Dec 93 pp 36-37

[Article by staff reporter Sin Hyong-chun: "An Issue of Professionals Rather Than Progress"]

[Text] "Do most Kwanak members know several methods of contraception? Do they know the method appropriate for themselves? About 30 percent of Kwanak members have had a sexual experience. However, have they ever been educated about sex, contraceptives, or even falling in love?"

This is part of the article "The Third Generation," a collection of policy materials written by Kang Pyong-won (a 23-year-old senior majoring in agricultural economics). Kang was elected General Student Association president at Seoul National University [SNU] on 26 November.

The Kang camp stated that the student movements of the 60's and 70's, which followed students' consciences, were first generation student movements, and the ideology-based movements of the 80's formed the second generation. They then proclaimed themselves the third generation, which dreams of the "progressive professionals" of society.

The student movement is changing. Actually, the change in the student movement is not new. It is natural that the old-style student movement cannot survive the waves of change that have followed the collapse of international socialism and the progress of democratization in every facet of society. However, the magnitude of change that emerged during the elections for student association president at universities last November was beyond expectations.

Yonsei University showed this most clearly in its student association president elections held on 24, 25 November. Son Yang-chol, a 25-year-old student who was considered a "non-student movement candidate," defeated the NL (National Liberation faction, whose main faction is the Chupasa faction) candidate after a fierce contest requiring two rounds of balloting. During the campaign, Son surprised his audience with his bold assertions about the "abolition of Marxism" and the comment that "inciting students through propaganda is nothing more than a religion."

According to the Ministry of Education, following the student association president elections in November, as many as 37 other universities have a student association president who does not belong to the student movement. However, in 1992 there were 36 universities that elected presidents from non-student movement circles, and so Yonsei and Kukmin Universities were the only "major universities" to produce non-student movement presidents during this election. Thus the rapid progress of the non-student movement circles is not that important.

The most important point is not the advance of the non-student movement circles, but the change in the characters and pledges of candidates. During the campaign, candidates consistently stressed university problems, such as education quality, rather than social problems, such as class or ethnic conflict. The organization of the "Committee for School Development in the 21st Century" and the introduction of the "system for evaluating professors' lectures" are some examples. The fact that the "Progressive Student Alliance for a Reunified Korea in the 21st Century" (the "21st Century Alliance," for short), which claims to be a new student movement, produced president elects at SNU, Sangmyong Women's University, and Hansong University, and the good showing of the "Kyongsilyon Student Association" in elections at SNU and Chonnam University are remarkable in connection with the change of character in the student movement.

The "Kyongsilyon Student Association" was founded in the middle of last April and fielded candidates at SNU, Chonnam, Chungang, and Choson Universities, and at the Ansan Campus of Hanyang University. During the

25 November race at Chonnam University—an "NL stronghold"—the Kyongsilyon Student Association candidate ran a close race against the NL candidate, and was defeated by a narrow margin of 50 or so votes. In the SNU election, even though the candidate won 1,567 votes out of the 12,200 or so cast and finished fourth among a field of five candidates, he was judged to have finished very well for a first-time candidate.

The "21st Century Alliance," which produced a president-elect at SNU—considered the "headquarters of the student movement," was founded on 9 October by 500 students from SNU and Yonsei, Korea, Songgyungwan, and Sokang Universities. The various factions, feeling that the student movement could no longer survive by following the styles of the NL or PD (Peoples Democracy) factions, met and founded this organization.

The "21st Century Alliance" has a goal of creating "third-generation universities" that train progressive professionals. It claims that the colleges have remained unchanged and are not keeping up with society as it becomes democratized and professionalized. Members of the group said creating "progressive professionals" is their goal, but that "professional" was more important that "progressive."

Kang Pyong-won, a member of the "21st Century Alliance" who was elected student association president at SNU, said: "If education were liberalized and Harvard University opened a branch in Korea, SNU—which barely ranks among the top 200 universities in the world—would not survive." He also stated he would "concentrate first on reforming college education." To reach this goal, the university should lower the number of credits required for graduation from the current 140 units to 120. It should strengthen the links between the disciplines and raise the quality of education by instituting a departmental system within each college.

Son Yang-chol, elected student association president at Yonsei University, aroused interest both inside and outside of the university by insisting on a "union-like student association." Son said: "The student movement still keeps the illusion of a bureacratic system, even though the trend of the times is for the dissolution of a rigid bureaucratic system and for the direct participation of individuals and organizations. It is sufficient for the student association to have a 'union' role for the sake of regulating individuals' interests."

Son said: "The fact that the student association fights only social and political issues while there are still various desires on campus is a dereliction of duty." He explained, "The 'movement' will be lead by leaders of the 'movement,' and not by the student association."

He suggested several concrete tasks to carry out, such as: Having faculty and staff use name tags, to give better service on campus; allowing only amateur athletes to participate in matches between Yonsei and Korea Universities—currently professional athletes participate; and collecting students' opinions using on-campus personal computer networks.

In elections for student association president at Korea, Sokang, and Ehwa Women's Universities, radical political solgans disappeared, and pledges to "start a campaign to gaurantee a 5 percent education fund," "increase the seating capacity in library reading rooms," and "increase the number of faculty members" appeared.

At Ehwa, one candidate called for the "disclosure of election expenses so that there could be student association elections that do not cost money." Two candidates revealed that they had spent 3.4 million won and 4 million won each. "Environmental" issues were a major topic at some universities, and some candidates used recycled paper for their leaflets.

How will the change among the student associations alter the face of the university community next May? Will the months of April and May, previously filled with tear gas and fire bombs, recover the splendor of spring?

"It depends on the situation, but I think that the time for us to resort to fire bombs has passed. We must act so that our demonstrations win people's sympathies and earn comments that what we are doing is satisfactory and good." (Kang Pyong-won, SNU)

"I will guarantee the voice of fellow students when it comes to political problems. However, I do not want the student association to lead on political problems. Moreover, if outside organizations such as Hanchongnyon [Korea Federation of University Student Councils] choose Yonsei University as a meeting place and the majority of students here are against it, then that meeting cannot be held here. The student association at Yonsei has no interest in the concerns of outside political organizations." (Son Yang-chol, Yonsei University)

* Socialist Workers Alliance Leader Interviewed

942C0058B Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean
25 Nov 93 pp 34-35

[Interview with Yo Yun-chae, alias name for leader of the Socialist Workers Alliance, by unidentified reporter in Seoul, date not given; first paragraph is the editor's note]

[Text] The Sanomaeng [Socialist Workers Alliance, pro-DPRK, anti-government in Seoul] had planned to conduct a separate socialist rally with the other socialistic political organizations while the laborers' rally was going on at the Hyochang sports arena on 30 October, but issued a joint statement only because there was not enough time. This interview was possible because the SISA JOURNAL made a counteroffer to the Sanomaeng when it requested us to report the movement for the legalization of the Sanomaeng taking the opportunity of this rally. The SISA JOURNAL planned this article to contribute to the public interest by reporting as accurately as possible the intention and the development of the Sanomaeng.

It took exactly five hours to meet him at a restaurant in Yongdungpo. He insisted that it was a necessary process in order to avoid the eyes of intelligence agencies that might chase them. They call it "sterilization." A member of Sanomaeng was with the reporting team all the time, but he did not know when the sterilization would end.

We changed taxis four times. I suspect that the other member of the Sanomaeng checked our moves somewhere near the assigned place. The sterilization that started in Kwangwhamum at 1400 on 9 November finally ended at Yongdungpo after passing the Tongyodong intersection, Kungmin Daily News building, and Kungmin Bank building, Kongdokdong. It was 1830. Another 30 minutes had passed when a man showed up and introduced the Sanomaeng. This is how a reporter of the bourgeois news media (Pak No Hae once called SISA JOURNAL this in a magazine) and a socialist met. He has a much more polished outstanding appearance than I expected. His name was Yo Yun-chae, but it was an alias. He answered questions with the logic of a leader befitting a political organization classified as an antinational organization by the security agencies. He allowed taking pictures as long as his face did not show.

[Reporter] Who are you?

[Yo Yun-chae] Because of the National Security Planning Agency [NSP] has not figured me out, it is not good to expose myself entirely. If my identity is known, my activities will be limited. All I can say (about myself) is that I entered Seoul National University and studied there from the end of the 1970's to the early 1980's and I planned to put all my efforts into the farmers movement, but I decided to devote myself to the Sanomaeng due to the change of environment.

[Reporter] Can you represent the Sanomaeng?

[Yo] I am a central committee member and chief of policy making of the Sanomaeng. Now, our organization is run by the collective leadership. We had our interim discussion before I came. Accordingly, my words reflect the thought of the central committee members and, I think, I can represent the Sanomaeng.

[Reporter] How many central committee members are there?

[Yo] I can say there are fewer than ten.

[Reporter] It is known that the Sanomaeng was in fact dissolved after Pak No-hae and Paek Tak-wung were arrested. At this moment, how much has the Sanomaeng restored the organization?

[Yo] Naturally, there was a time when, in fact, the organization did not work after the two 'accidents' (he expressed it this way). Those were critical blows. However, we put much effort into restoring the organization ever since, and now full members of our organization have reached 90% of the number of members in the past. But we lost supporters and collaborators. The restoration of the organization was accomplished within two months after the accidents. The question is whether or not we can secure political leadership. In the past, we judged power according to who could mobilize more people in mass rallies, but now times have changed. At this moment, the local organizations are located in Honam Province, Central area, and Yongnam Province.

[Reporter] Socialism has collapsed internationally, and the influence of the opposition groups has diminished within the country. Do you believe that socialism can indeed be carried out in South Korea?

[Yo] The collapse of socialism was the most difficult experience for us. The Sanomaeng has carried out a critical examination of socialist ideology ever since. After all, it was the problem of a country. Marx regarded communism as the extinction of countries through the extinction of classes, but Stalinistic socialism, on the contrary, pursued the reinforcement of a country. That was Leninism that Lenin did not like. We insist on socialism that restores the communistic point of view. In the future, the Sanomaeng will have its basis in the mass movement and will realize socialism through fair competition in the capitalistic society. Despite the merits of capitalism, there are some people who feel that 'this is not it.' This is the reason for us to transform our organization from the centralized pyramid style of the past to the network-style organization that connects positions in all fields. With this renovation of the Sanomaeng and under conditions of fair competition, I am confident of victory in the election.

[Reporter] The Sanomaeng was rather evaluated as a political organization that does not have a power base among the people. There is also a criticism that they are 'socialists inside the flags'...

[Yo] I accept that. The Sanomaeng approached the people not by taking root in organizations among the people but by depending heavily on some 'stars' and the method of distinct propaganda and instigation. We were accustomed to barricading and confronting enemy face to face. But we will use tactics of positions from now on. We will penetrate into movements in all fields such as labor, students, citizen, and religious movements. Recently, the labor movement in the Ulsan region lends optimism. The Sanomaeng will not be a far away organization but will be a trustworthy organization. The most important point is the connection of all positions by political leaderships. After hardening the power base like this, we will make a socialist workers' party.

[Reporter] Recently, Pak No-hae called the Sanomaeng 'my illigitimate child' in an interview from prison with a magazine. What is your opinion about that?

[Yo] It is true that there are many stories about comrade Pak. But he is not free. He is serving a life sentence in prison. I have heard about his agonies through the news media, but I think it is a process for him to grope along the way of human liberation under the changed circumstances. It will be more clear when he, who is still a central committee member of the Sanomaeng, is set free and becomes a free man.

[Reporter] When will you form a party? Is it possible?

[Yo] We believe the time will be either the end of 1994 or the beginning of 1995. The Sanomaeng should be legalized before we start the party. Because we have been under concentrated attack by investigation agencies, we have maneuvered via both legal and illegal tactics (it is called simultaneous construction theory in their terms). But we will launch struggles for legalizing the Sanomaeng directly from now on. We plan to start full-scale open activities in the near future. Even though it is not known to the public, socialist power is building within the labor movement now. Labor union movements in South Korea have not yet conducted a political campaign. If labor unions can conduct a political campaign, they will rise to become a socialist power. We are building a party that is based on the solidarity of socialistic powers and labor unions. At the same time, the People's Political Union (Professor Oh Se Chol of Yonsei University is the head) openly proclaims that socialism is active. Many people, including some former members of the Sanomaeng released from prison, are involved in this organization.

[Reporter] If so, is the People's Politic Union a legal political organization that the Sanomaeng launched in advance?

[Yo] Absolutely not. We will just maintain a close relationship because we have same direction.

[Reporter] Funding will be needed to wage a full-scale struggle for legalization. How can you provide that?

[Yo] It is run with the help of some patrons around us and membership fees from employed comrades. Sometimes we collect several 10 million won by holding a supply drive when we plan a big event. However, that is not enough. After all, forming a political party is costly, isn't it? It is yet in the planning stage, but we plan to run businesses by making the most of our members. We concentrated on running seminars for mental arithmetic in the past, but we will concentrate on manufacturing businesses this time. Then, we can build the fund consistently.

[Reporter] Are there any plans for legalizing the Sanomaeng?

[Yo] The election for the local government system in 1995 will be an important opportunity in our socialism movement let alone this administration. I think that the Kim Yong-sam administration will build the base for two-stage political reform by the revised election law. The socialist movement will be the first political challenge since the civilian government took office. What happens now will form the foundation of the Sanomaeng's future. We plan to ally with the progressive power and suggest 'a combined meeting of labor unions and progressive organizations for the innovative local government system' and to respond with all our efforts.

[Reporter] What relationship do you have with the other socialist political factions? Do you want only the Sanomaeng legalized?

[Yo] For example, 'international socialists', 'short-term laborers' alliance', and 'revolutionary socialist laborers' exist already as a socialist power. The government firmly defines these groups as illegal organizations. Eventually, the struggle for legalizing the Sanomaeng will achieve the freedom of ideology. We have to work together. South Korea is the only country that does not allow the socialists power on earth. These moves such as the revision of the National Security Plan law and the repeal of the National Security Law are optimistic signs.

[Reporter] Isn't it in vain if the government does not recognize it?

[Yo] If the government does not recognize us, we cannot legalize it with our power only. We plan to negotiate with them on the legalization. We can do it by responding according to the situation.

Korea Telecom Earmarks Funds for Research

SK0403021094 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] Korea Telecom [KT] yesterday announced it will spend 320 billion won, or an estimated 6.1 percent of its revenues this year, on research and development. The state-run telephone company also announced the establishment of Korea Telecom Research Laboratories, which comprises the six existing research arms of the company.

"The reshuffle of our research efforts was necessary because most research projects call for close coordination between our research centers," said Yi Yong-kyong, who became the first president of KT Research Labs.

A spokesman said Korea Telecom will funnel 320 billion won and 684 researchers into 69 R&D projects this year. The research fields will include automatic translation, intelligent network and integrated digital service network (ISDN) technologies. For each project, KT

Research Labs will form a research team by recruiting related specialists from the existing research centers.

"We hope this process, which is already adopted by advanced foreign research institutions, will greatly enhance our technological competitiveness in the world market," Yi said.

The nation's largest telephone company has steadily increased its R&D budget, from 198 billion won in 1992 to 277 billion won, or 4.2 percent of its annual sales, last year. The company will expand its R&D budget up to more than 8 percent of its annual revenues by the year 2000, a spokesman said.

Most of the nation's research funds in the telecommunications sector come from the three major operators—Korea Telecom, Korea Mobile Telecom and Dacom.

In 1993, the three companies invested a combined 300 billion won in research and technological development. Their combined R&D investment will increase to 400 billion won this year, or an estimated 6.5 percent of this yearly revenues [as published].

Burma

Central Bank To Issue New Bank Notes on 27 Mar

BK0303144294 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Central Bank of Myanmar [Burma] in Yangon [Rangoon] today announced the issuance of new bank notes bearing the king lion motif.

The text of the announcement reads: To assist the economic reforms being undertaken in accordance with the state's market economic system and to facilitate legal tender for the public, the Central Bank of Burma is to issue a highly secured and international standard new series of Kyat 500, 200, 50, 20 bank notes and 50 Pyas bank note, bearing the king lion motif, on 27 March 1994. [passage omitted on description of notes]

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1245 GMT on 3 Mar, in a similar report adds: "The currency announcement came amid widespread rumours that the 100 kyat banknote, introduced in 1990 with the 90 kyat note, were to be replaced. Introduction of the new bank-notes will have no direct impact on inflation as they would replace old notes as they were destroyed, a senior bank official said.

"The official put the volume of currency in circulation at about 52 billion kyats as of March 31, 1993, with an inflation rate of 31.6 percent.

"In the meantime the volume of foreign exchange certificates (FEC) introduced a year ago to help promote tourism, had reached 15 million dollars, with an estimated 30 percent in the hands of the public, Win Tin said. While declining to give specific figures of Burma's present foreign exchange reserves, he said it was 'very healthy' and that there was no cause for concern."]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV's Do Muoi To Pay Official Visit 24-28 Mar

BK0403102594 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0338 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Vietnamese Communist Party's Secretary-General Do Muoi will make a four-day official visit to Malaysia from March 24, acccording to the Foreign Ministry here. It said in a statement issued here Thursday that the visit is at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

While here, he will hold talks with Dr. Mahathir on bilateral relations and current regional and international issues. Do Muoi will make a visit to the southern state of Melaka where he will call on the governor, Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin.

Mahathir Faults 'False Allegations' in UK Media

BK0403083394 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the British media made all sorts of false allegations against the Malaysian leadership because it wanted to undermine Malaysia's credibility in its efforts to solve world problems. They hoped that by giving a bad impression of the country's leadership, Malaysia's voice in the international arena would no longer be respected.

The prime minister said he could not determine their intention, but the fact that the attacks mounted by the newspapers against Malaysia and its leadership could have the effect of reducing people's trust against Malaysia. [sentence as heard] He said this after attending a dialogue session with federal officials in Kota Baharu, the capital of the east coast state of Kelantan.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that Malaysia must be economically strong to prevent the country from being indirectly colonized by big powers. He points out that though the country has achieved considerable progress since independence, it is still far away from the target set for Vision 2020. As such, all sectors must do their best to ensure political stability so that the country can continue to march forward for greater achievements. He said Malaysia is fortunate that it can now survive without aid from others.

Car Sales in UK Not Hurt

BK0303134994 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues—The National Automobile Manufacturing Industry Limited is confident the government's decision to deny new contracts to British firms will not influence its customers in the United Kingdom. Its public relations manager, Nik Kamariah Nik Abdul Rahman, said today Proton's [Malaysian car] involvement in the United Kingdom market was solely a business venture.

The Proton cars have received strong response in the country because of their quality and value coupled with the aggressive marketing strategy adopted by the distributor, Proton Cars (UK) Limited. She said Proton would countinue to support its distributor's commitment on services and warranty.

Proton has exported 70,491 cars to the United Kingdom since 1989. The company expects to export 17,580 units this year. It was reported today Proton cars (UK) had told its customers and buyers not to be unduly concerned over the Malaysian Government's decision to stop awarding new contracts to British companies.

Razak on Importance of Modernizing Armed Forces

BK0303143394 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues—Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak says there is a need to boost the capabilities of the armed forces to ensure political stability and economic development. He said today the government had set aside funds to modernise the armed forces to deter any prospective aggressor. "With the armed forces' improved capabilities, an aggressor will think twice about testing our defence," he added.

Najib said this when interviewed on the TV3's inaugural Malaysia Hari Ini [Malaysia Today] morning talk show. He also said the government was reviewing the national defense policy to keep it in line with the changes and challenges facing the armed forces. He said the higher defense spending should not be seen as an attempt by Malaysia to join the arms race. However, this was to keep up with developments in defense technology to ensure the armed forces had modern equipment and for continuous economic development.

During the special programme, Najib also answered public enquiries and suggestions through the toll-free telephone lines.

To a caller's question, Najib said the armed forces did not plan to include nuclear arms as part of its modernization programme. There was no need for such weapons in the region since the end of the Cold War had removed superpower rivalry in the region, he explained.

To another question, Najib said Malaysian troops were safe in Bosnia despite the Serb forces' recent threat to retaliate against the air strike threat by NATO. NATO had threatened to carry out air strikes if the Serb forces did not pull back their heavy guns from the hills around Sarajevo.

Singapore

Defense Minister Wants U.S. Presence in Region

BK0403102894 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Mar 94 p 10

[Reports by Felix Soh]

[Text] The prospect of an arms race developing between Japan, India and China depended largely on whether the U.S. would continue to be engaged in the region, said Singapore Defence Minister Dr Yeo Ning Hong. He was responding to a question by Asian Airline and Aerospace, a publication produced during the Asian Aerospace 94 show which ended last week, about the perceived emergence of an arms race between the three countries. The minister said that an abrupt or significant U.S. withdrawal may lead to these countries feeling more insecure or wanting to fill the vacuum.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, China has the world's largest armed forces with three million troops while India has 1.2 million. Compared with these two giants, Japan's armed forces of 238,000 is miniscule. "Either way, it will mean that they will build up their military capabilities," Dr Yeo pointed out. "And if any of them becomes assertive, the result will be tension and instability in the region."

He explained that the "restraining presence" of the U.S. meant that countries need not be as worried about their potential enemies and can focus their attention and resources on economic development rather than building up their military capabilities.

Asked about the region's two hot spots—the Spratlys and the Korean Peninsula—he said that the potential for conflict in the South China Sea would be greatly increased if oil and gas were discovered.

"However, so long as the countries involved are willing to abide by internationally accepted codes of conduct in resolving this territorial dispute, it was less likely that there will be open conflict in the region," he said.

On tension in the Korean Peninsula, he commented that an arms race could be triggered off in north-east Asia if Pyongyang developed a nuclear bomb. "Japan could feel so threatened that it proceeds to develop a nuclear capacity of its own," he said. Such a turn of events would in turn prompt China and the two Koreas to accelerate their military build-up. "An arms race in northeast Asia will create tensions that could destabilise the entire Asia-Pacific," he noted.

The minister said that because of the uncertainty in the region in the post-Cold War era, "security is something we cannot take for granted". He said: "Singapore believes that the best means to maintain peace and stability is to develop an understanding among the countries here as well as those countries which can make an impact on our security, such as the U.S., China, Russia, Australia and Japan."

This was why the Republic strongly supported the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) which provides the framework for multilateral discussions of security issues on a regular basis. It would also enhance the close defence relations and cooperation which had been built up over the years, he said.

Touching on Singapore's role in the discussions of security issues on a collective basis, he said that being small, it could not influence the course of events. "But by acting together with other Asean countries, we have a role to play in cooling down any potential conflict which may arise in the region."

Cambodia

Ranariddh Gives Up on Accord With Khmer Rouge

OW0303152394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, March 3 KYODO—Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Thursday he has given up trying to achieve an accommodation with the Khmer Rouge faction through dialogue. Ranariddh, speaking to Japanese reporters ahead of a visit to Tokyo next week to attend an international meeting on aid to Cambodia, said he undertook two secret missions to Bangkok "to try to have a dialogue. But now finish," the Royalist Party leader said.

Saying economic reconstruction is now Cambodia's top priority, Ranariddh downplayed the threat posed by the Khmer Rouge group. He said the government's offer to allow the Khmer Rouge to take part in the government will be withdrawn if the faction continues its resistance. "If they continue to be unreasonable, my people will continue the way they continue today," he said.

Ranariddh spoke as Cambodian Army commanders reportedly announced plans to recapture the northern Khmer Rouge base of Anlong Veng within 10 days. Khmer Rouge guerrillas took it back at the end of last month. [passage omitted]

Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen will be attending the second meeting of the International Committee on Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) set for March 10 to 11 in Tokyo. He said Cambodia needs additional aid to help clear unexploded mines, estimated to number as many as 10 million throughout the country.

Sihanouk on Travel Plans, Impact of Illness

BK0403111494 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 3 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] According to sources in Tokyo, in a message sent from Beijing, His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk says that he will return to Phnom Penh on 8 April, six days before Cambodia's traditional new year, although he has to continue his medical treatment. After his arrival in Phnom Penh the king will organize a ceremony to mark the 90th anniversary of his late mother, Queen Sisowath Kosomak, to be held in the royal palace one day after his arrival.

In this message the king says that he plans to meet with Cambodian Government leaders and the Throne Council. Apart from this, the king will remain in Cambodia in order to receive credentials from various ambassadors, who were recently appointed, such as the envoy from Great Britain.

The king will also stay on to take part in the new year celebrations, a tradition of the Cambodian nation. Apart from this, the prince father will also receive an important guest. This is the state visit by the prime minister of Malaysia, who will shortly visit Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Before returning to Phnom Penh in early April, the king will leave Beijing for Pyongyang, North Korea, for a three- or four-day visit and then leave from there for Phnom Penh.

The king, however, says that Chinese doctors have asked him to return to Beijing in June to continue his medical treatment. The king notes that: "I am a lot better from the cancer in the bone marrow in my back." I am far from being cured as concerns the cancerous marrow bone in my back. [preceding sentence in English]

King Norodom Sihanouk specifies that he can no longer continue his writing or his other literary activities because "I have become an old man who is sick, weak, and very fragile." It is to be noted that King Norodom Sihanouk underlines the words very fragile [preceding two words in English].

The essence of this message was excerpted and printed in the CAMBODIA DAILY BULLETIN published in Phnom Penh in three languages. This bulletin also reveals that a palace official in Phnom Penh affirmed on 28 February that the king plans to return to Phnom Penh on 8 April. This official, however, did not give a schedule of King Norodom Sihanouk's visit to Pyongyang. He only said that "it is a tradition for the king to travel to Pyongyang close to 15 April, a date which coincides with the birthday of Kim Il-song."

Official on Foreign Investment, Job Creation

BK0403090694 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 4 Mar 94 p 4

[Excerpt] Khieu Rada, under secretary of state for trade, said that after the United States opened its door to Cambodia as one of the Most Favored Nations (MFN) early last month, many foreign investors have expressed interest in doing business in this country. Among them are some Hong Kong Chinese who have contacted us and said they wanted to set up garment factories for export. Their main market, of course, will be the lucrative and low-tax United States.

The under secretary of state went on: When the Hong Kong investors came to meet us, we were always glad to welcome them. The under secretary of state said that we need both local and foreign investors for Cambodia. We advised them to get ready to invest in the garment industry and we told them to make advance arrangements with American trading counterparts pending the signature of the agreement between the Cambodian and American sides, which will take place in the next two to three months.

The Hong Kong Chinese are not the only ones to have expressed the desire to invest in the garment sector.

Investors from the PRC and from other countries also have expressed interest. Each garment factory, according to the investors, would require a large labor force numbering in the hundreds or thousands. So, it would help absorb the now mostly idle excess state-employed personnel, as well as provide employment for the general public.

The under secretary of state emphatically rejected remarks made by some administration officials who mistakenly feared economic colonization of our country by the United States following Cambodia's introduction into the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) and its acquisition of MFN status. He pointed out that in granting GSP and MFN recognition to economically weaker nations like Cambodia, the larger and stronger countries are the ones who assist the former by making many concessions to them, while the smaller and weaker countries will not be expected to return any favors.

In Cambodia's case, the United States will impose the lowest taxes on more than 4,000 types of products that could be imported from our country. As for goods from the United States, our government will be asked to levy taxes equal to but not higher than those imposed on goods imported from other countries, such as Japan or Singapore. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Envoy Urges UN To Ensure Palestinian Safety

BK0403082994 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Indonesia has asked the UN Security Council to pay serious attention and not neglect its responsibility in Israeli-occupied Palestine territory following the recent massacre of more than 50 Palestinians. (Isa Slamet Sudarga), deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said Indonesia hopes the Security Council will not only end such atrocities against the Palestinians, but also make efforts to find a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.

Therefore, along with Palestine, Indonesia called on the Security Council to take concrete actions to ensure that Israel performs its duty to protect Palestinian citizens in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Indonesia also fully supported the resolution adopted by the Organization of Islamic Conference which called on the UN Security Council to discuss the massacre so as to end the Israeli oppression and safeguard the safety of Palestinians through the presence of international observers.

Bosnian Prime Minister Arrives, Views Ties

BK0403104594 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0857 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Jakarta, March 4 (ANTARA)—Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladjzic hoped that Indonesia in its capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] would exert more political influence on the United Nations in an effort to create peace and sovereignty in the war-torn Bosnia. Bosnia hoped for Indonesia's full and ceaseless support as NAM chairman, he told the press here on Friday. Siladjizic, who arrived from Washington, said he also hoped that countries which had so far supported Bosnia in the UN to maintain its supports.

At Sukarno-Hatta Airport, the Bosnian leader was welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Chief Executive Assistant to the NAM chairman NANA Sutresna, and NAM's roving ambassador for Europe, Akhmad Taher. He said that the future developments in Bosnia depended on the UN agreement and Bosnia was convinced that NAM could voice its supports and play its active roles in the UN. Bosnia will, meanwhile, make use of any conducive momentum by approaching Russia, he added.

Previously, the Indonesian Embassy [as received] in New York had been notified about the wish of the Bosnian prime minister to visit Indonesia.

He said that in his two-day visit, he will discuss with Indonesian side the latest developments about the Washington accord and the future steps to be taken by Bosnia. Siladjzic, who is former foreign minister of Bosnia, was in Washington DC for peace talks between Bosnia and Croatia. In the meeting, both sides agreed to form a framework for the establishment of a federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They also discussed the possibility of Bosnian Serbs forming a confederation with the Republic of Croatia. The establishment of federation and confederation is expected to stop the aggression against Bosnia and give priority to a plan to reorganize the internal structure of the war-torn Bosnia.

On the possibility of forming a confederation with Serbia, Siladjzic said that it depends on the initiatives from some NAM members and several "friends" in the West, especially from the Government of Russia. "I will meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow to discuss the peace process and a possibility of inviting the Bosnian Serbs to the peace agreement," said Siladjzic who is going to visit Moscow mid of this month. [as received] He believes that Serbia is the one that must give territorial concession because Serbia is the aggressor of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian prime minister said that diplomatic ties between Bosnia and Indonesia will be established soon at the right time when some problems are solved.

Army Commander Rejects Illegal Union Recognition

BK0403064494 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0638 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Solo, Central Java, March 4 (ANTARA)—The government remains firm on its view that the Indonesian

Sejahtera Workers Union (SBSI) is illegal and will never be a recognised organisation, Diponegoro Central Java Military Regional Commander Major General Suyono said here Thursday. "SBSI is an illegal organisation. If workers wish to forward complaints, they should do so through the SPSI," he said, referring to the country's only recognised labour organisation, the All-Indonesia Workers Union.

Suyono, speaking to reporters during a meeting with Tyfountex Co. Ltd. employees in Sukoharjo district, said workers should consult the legal SPSI in the event of any disputes. "If there is any dispute between you and your company, you may lodge your complaints through SPSI who should respond immediately," he urged the company's workforce who went on strike on February 11 to protest against working conditions. Tyfountex, meanwhile, has not given the workers any assurance.

Suyono reminded employers to meet all regulations of workers' rights in order to improve productivity. "Employers should meet all the rights of the worker in accordance with regulations so that they can improve on their job performance."

During his visit, the military commander also stopped over at Batik Keris Co. Ltd., who similarly faced a strike a few days ago. Batik Keris director said the company had settled the dispute with its workers. "All our employees have gone back to their work," he said. The company employs some 25,000 workers.

Activist Gets Jail Term for 'Defaming' Suharto

BK0403110794 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 25 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Human rights activist Nuku Soleiman was sentenced to four years in jail yesterday fo defaming President Suharto. The Central Jakarta District Court found the 30-year-old Nuku guilty of producing and distributing stickers insulting to President Suharto. The sentence was less than the maximum allowed by law and sought by government prosecutors. Nuku faced the sentencing alone since his lawyers have boycotted the trial in protest over the court's refusal ta allow them to call witnesses to testify on Nuku's behalf.

For his part, Nuku remained silent throughout as he continued his silent protest which began two sessions earlier, also over the court's refusal to hear the testimony of his witnesses.

Nuku, who chairs the Pijar Foundation human rights group, was arrested during a demonstration at the House of Representatives last November. Police claimed he was distributing stickers offensive to the president.

"This court finds Nuku Soleiman guilty of all charges and sentences him to four years in prison," said Presiding Judge Nurhayati. The panel of judges said they could find only one mitigating factor when passing the sentence, Nuku's relative youth. They cited several factors that worked against him, including the lack of respect he showed the court during the trial, two previous convictions, and no evidence of remorse. They also deplored the harsh language employed by Nuku during the trial.

The judges later asked Nuku whether or not he would appeal the sentence. The defendant, still maintaining his silence, walked up to the judges and presented a written statement which his close friends confirmed as a note claiming that he will appeal.

The courtroom was packed with the defendant's supporters, mostly clad in the green jacket of the National University, Nuku's almamater. They yelled at the judges and challenged them to pass a heavier sentence. Also present in the public gallery were opposition figures, including Ali Sadikin and Chris Siner Key Timu. Adnan Buyung Nasution, chairman of the Legal Aid Foundation, which organized Nuku's defense, was also present.

As Nuku was being escorted out of the courtroom, his supporters yelled encouragement and sang the patriotic song Padamu Negeri (For You the Nation).

Buyung later termed the verdict a tragedy for the nation because punishment was meted out to someone who merely acted out his constitutional right. "This shows that free impartial movement is no longer guaranteed, he said. He said that courts of law in Indonesia are controlled by the government and that judges could not be impartial when presiding over politically sensitive cases such as Nuku's. "Under such a suppressive atmosphere, it's difficult to find an idealistic judge. The judges had taken their stand against the defendant from the very beginning," he said. Buyung labeled this trial worse than the mid-1980s political trial of dissident leader Lt. Gen. (retired) H.R. Dharsono whom he helped defend.

Nuku's friends later distributed to reporters a five-page typed statement he crafted while in detention, which said he had made no attempt to defend himself because he did not believe in the impartiality of the court. "A strong and powerful force from outside the court has arranged the trial and the verdict has been rendered long before the trial began," said Nuku in the statement.

Laos

Mongolian President, Delegation Continue Visit

Nouhak, Ochirbat Sign Treaty

BK0403104894 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Vientiane, March 4 (KPL)—Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] President Nouhak Phoumsavan and Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat yesterday signed here a friendship treaty between Laos and Mongolia.

The treaty provides that the parties will develop their relations on the basis of principles generally recognised by the international law: respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, respect for the fundamental human rights and freedom and peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The parties will promote their cooperation in political and economic fields including trade, technical science, public health, culture, education, press, humanitarian affairs and others to their mutual interest. [Words indistinct] also provided in the treaty to replace the friendship and cooperation treaty signed in 1979 between the two countries when this treaty has become effective, which means after it has been ratified and after the date an exchange of letter for the ratification of this treaty has been made.

On the same day, an agreement concerning investment promotion and protection between the two countries was also signed between Minister Phao Bounnaphon, head of the Prime Minister's Office, and the trade and industry minister of Mongolia. The agreement has the objectives to promote and create conditions favorable for investment by each party in one another's country in conformity with the law of their countries. Each party will provide facilities, fair treatment, and protection as well as giving priorities to each other in investment sectors and in remitting profit, dividend to their respective countries.

The signing of this agreement was witnessed by the presidents of the two countries, and senior officials from both sides.

The friendship treaty and the investment promotion and protection agreement between Laos and Mongolia were signed during a three-day visit to Laos by Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and his delegation. The Mongolian president with his wife and delegation left here yesterday for Hanoi for a visit to Vietnam.

While in Laos, the Mongolian president had talks with President Nouhak Phoumsavan and met with Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, who invited [words indistinct]. He also (?paid a visit) [words indistinct] Mekong bridge construction project, and the Nam Ngum hydropower dam in the province of Vientiane.

An official ceremony to see the Mongolian president and his delegation off was held at the Presidential Palace.

Trade Talks Reported

BK0303122894 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (KPL)—Lao Trade Minister Sompadit Volasan yesterday had talks with the trade and industry minister of Mongolia who is member of the Mongolian president's delegation to Laos.

The two trade ministers discussed trade activities and exchanged experience on trade management system during the period of shifting to a new mechanism. They shared the view that the bilateral trade relations should be reviewed.

During the visit, the two countries have yet to sign an agreement to restore their trade relations and cooperation, which have been halted since 1989.

In the morning of the same day, the president of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Sisouk Sisombat also met with his Mongolian counterpart, and businessmen of 14 Mongolian companies, both state and private, involved in three sectors: trade industry, agriculture and services.

Ochirbat Ends Visit

BK0303150894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The friendship visit by His Excellency [H.E.] Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], which began on the evening of 28 February, concluded with brilliant success this morning. The Mongolian president, his wife, and entourage today left the capital of Vientiane for Hanoi by special plane to pay an official friendship visit to the SRV.

During his stay in the LPDR, H.E. Punsalmaagiym Ochirbat held talks with H.E. LPDR President Nouhak Phoumsavan and paid a courtesy call on H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and LPDR prime minister. He also visited the construction site of the Mekong Friendship Bridge and the Mongolian Embassy in Laos and toured Vientiane Province, the Nam Ngum Hydropower Plant, and the Nam Ngum Reservoir. Wherever he went, he was given a warm welcome by cadres, workers, local administrators, and the people.

Before departing for Hanoi today, H.E. Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the LPDR and Mongolia. The two excellencies also attended a signing ceremony for an agreement on the promotion and protection of investment between (?the ministries of trade) of the two countries. A farewell ceremony was held later at Ho Kham Hall, attended by H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, his wife, and other (?Lao leaders).

Defense Policy Objectives for 1994 Discussed

BK0403065194 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Feb 94

[26 February PASASON editorial: "Let Our Entire Army Strive To Fulfill National Defense Duty for 1994"]

[Text] Respected listeners: In the armywide conference of cadres for 1993-94, the participants discussed and profoundly studied national defense direction and duty for this year as presented by the National Defense Ministry. The guidelines derived from the conference are aimed at enabling Armed Forces of all units and localities to creatively adopt plans in a spirit of responsibility to be in conformity with their respective practical conditions and specific points with a view to guaranteeing fulfillment of the tasks of defending the country, maintaining public security, and building and consolidating their units and localities to be strong in all respects. The national defense direction and tasks for this year are as follows:

Continue to consolidate national defense and public security maintenance work in all respects and combine it with socioeconomic development work and expanding relations and cooperation with foreign countries; determinedly check and overcome all subversive and sabotage schemes and acts of bad elements to basically bring to the entire country a tranquil situation, political stability, and social order; pay attention to firmly consolidating, building, and strengthening Armed Forces in all respects by emphasizing improved quality of work in the political field while attaching importance to serving and raising the quality of combat work; and build the Armed Forces to be strong, maintain a revolutionary nature, and stick to rules and regulations on the march forward to becoming a modern, well-organized Army.

Another significant duty of the Army is to continue coordination with local administrations in building the grass roots to be firm and strong in all fields by building and combining the entire people's field position of national defense and public security work with rural development. Along with this, it is also necessary to continue to step up emulation campaigns in building all-around strong units and all-around leading party units.

The objectives are that all local units must strive to set up one or two model units; pay attention to organizing military training for combatants to enable them to achieve competence in combat tactics and strategy and gain experiences in using weapons available in their units; and enthusiastically and continually boost crop cultivation and livestock breeding movements in organizations, units, and localities in all seasons. Regarding this, first and foremost, attention must be paid to growing vegetables for their daily meals. In addition, attention must be paid to planting perennial fruit trees in order to build green units. An endeavor must be made also to create all favorable conditions as possible to plant goods-oriented crops to serve the requirements of the markets in order to gain more revenues for the units. Favorable conditions must also be created for promoting poultry and fish breeding.

To successfully fulfill the aforementioned tasks, first and foremost, party committees and command staffs at all levels must pay attention to educating and training all cadres and combatants to enable them to understand the glorious traditions of the nation, the Army, and their own units, and to profoundly understand the restructuring line of the party and duties of the Army as well as of their respective units and localities. All cadres and combatants must be educated and trained to maintain appropriate attitudes and raise to a higher level their spirit of political responsibility. Attention must be paid to building the contingents of cadres and party members with appropriate qualifications, competence, and experiences in organizing, leading, and commanding units; enhancing the unique solidarity in the ranks of party committees and command staffs as well as the solidarity between cadres and combatants and their solidarity with the multiethnic people; maintaining the Army's political way of living; and promoting and expanding good, positive points of units and localities. Each unit and locality must organize to regularly review its achievements won in implementing the duties in each period. They must also pay attention to learning good lessons from other units or localities. Simultaneously, they must be determined to check and settle their weak points and remaining problems in a timely manner in order to enable their units and localities to continue to enthusiastically carry out movements to fruitfully fulfill the national defense direction and tasks for this year.

Philippines

Government Condemns Hebron Mosque Massacre

BK0403033294 Quezon City MALAYA in English
1 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] The Philippines yesterday condemned the massacre last Friday of Palestinian worshipers by an Israeli-American settler in the occupied territory. It called on Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to continue their multilateral peace talks in Washington.

Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo announced this amid reports that three Arab delegations were suspending participation in the talks following the Hebron massacre, where a Jewish setler opened fire inside the Ibrahim mosque and killed at least 43 Muslims and wounded many others. Romulo yesterday met with Palestinian Ambassador Musa Amer Odeh [as published], who asked the Philippine Government to formally condemn the massacre. Odeh sent a formal request to President Ramos through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Odeh said Israel's "official terrorism" cannot continue if the United States and the United Nations or the whole international community would really want to stop it. He said countries may impose trade and economic sanctions on Israel through a UN resolution.

"But any despicable act should be condemned in no uncertain terms by everybody," Romulo said, in response to reports that the UN was being asked to issue a resolution condemning the massacre. Romulo said the Philippines also welcomes announcement by Israel that it would take steps to disarm some 120,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the DFA is in a "unique position" as it can coordinate with the Palestinian and Israeli ambassadors in Manila to encourage the continuation of peace talks among parties concerned.

Odeh described the crime against Palestinians by the Jewish settler as "a time bomb which may explode any minute," and that this could endanger the ongoing peace initiatives between two peoples. He said that for years the settlers have been allowed by Israel to carry weapons to terrorize the Palestinians. Since 1967, this issue has been addressed several times by the UN Security Council in numerous resolutions which considered settlements as illegal and have to be dismantled. He told Romulo that is is about time that security needs of Palestinians be addressed by every country.

Manila To Host Economic Talks With Vietnam

BK0403033494 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Mar 94 p 18

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo yesterday said that economic cooperation is the main item on the agenda of the Philippine-Vietnam consultations to be held in Manila on 10 March. Romulo said the panels will discuss "how the Philippines will be able to support Vietnam go into a free-market system from a centrally planned economy."

Romulo said the Philippines has a lot of agriculturists and economics professors and practitioners. Under a "trilateral cooperation" arrangement, they can provide expertise to developing countries funded by a developed country like Japan. Romulo said such an arrangement is already in effect in Cambodia where a number of Filipino agriculturists are helping Cambodians under a program funded by Japan.

Other areas where Filipinos could lend expertise are banking, business management, fishing, and ceramics manufacturing. Another area the Filipinos are good at is implementation of official development assistance, Romulo said. Romulo said Vietnam, with more than 70 million people, is a rich market for the Philippines once the purchasing power of its population goes up. [passage omitted]

The 10 March bilateral consultation precedes President Ramos' state visit to Vietnam tentatively scheduled on 28 to 31 March. [passage omitted]

MNLF-GRP Group Formed To Monitor Violations

BK0403033094 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Excerpts] Cotabato City—The government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) peace panels have created here a joint cease fire sub-committee to monitor possible violation of the MNLF-GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] truce in Maguindanao where the military was earlier accused of "partisan" role.

Army Col. Rudolfo Lorayes, 603rd Infantry Brigade chief, was named as chairman with Capt. Filemon Saria and Sgt. Filemon Rowe as members representing the government in the Maguindanao Joint Cease Fire Subcommittee (MJCS). The MNLF counterparts are rebel Colonel Hamid Piang, chairman, Major Abas Kalipha and Mustapha Abdulwahab, members.

The MJCS, housed at the provincial capitol complex in Sultan Kudarat town, was formed on 21 February, two days after the MNLF-GRP main cease fire committee came here to probe the renewed armed rift between Moro rebels and logging firm guards in Maguindanao. The planned probe, however, has been stalled due to the non- arrival here of some Indonesian Embassy officials from Manila to represent the Organization of Islamic Conference in the probe, local MNLF sources said.

It was not known whether the MJCS will be the one to pursue the stalled probe as members of the GRP-MNLF main joint cease fire committees had returned to Zamboanga after the MJCS was formed.

The probe was sought by MNLF Secretary-General Muslimen Sema, who had expressed alarm over the renewed rift between Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels and guards of the Cotabato Timberland Company, Inc. (CTCI) in Buldon and Barira towns.

The skirmishes recurred when MILF rebels reportedly raided last 27 January three CTCI checkpoints and an Army detachment in Barira town, killing a CTCI guard and wounding another. [passage omitted]

The MILF had accused the military of being "partisan" with the CTCI in the rift, which stemmed from the MILF's objection to the CTCI's alleged intrusion into MILF lairs and watershed areas in Buldon and Barira towns. The military denied the accusation, saying its presence in the area was for "peace keeping" as sought by the people there.

The CTCI and the MILF had recently forged a peace truce with the intercession of some Muslim leaders. But Murad said the rift will remain until the CTCI leaves Maguindanao. Maguindanao Governor Norodin Matalan has also demanded the cancellation of the CTCI's timber License Agreement and its ejection from his province.

Thailand

Army Official Denies KR Use Thai Territory

BK0403054194 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Somkhuan Saenphattharanet, deputy spokesman of the Royal Thai Army, met with reporters over the Sieng Lapresse—spokesman of the Information Ministry of the Phnom Penh government, Cambodia—interview with AP. Lapresse said that Khmer Rouge [KR] forces delivered logs to Thailand for sale to earn money for use in their fight against the Cambodian Government and they also use Thai territory as a base for their operations.

Lt.Col. Somkhuan said such a statement is groundless and affects the image of Thailand. If one considers the issue thoughtfully, it is obvious that the present Thai Government has a clear policy to maintain good relations with Cambodia. One indication is the visit to Cambodia and Phnom Penh by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai in January this year. Another indication is that the Thai Government has provided Cambodia with assistance for rehabilitating the country in various fields. These are factors that assure very well the sincerity of Thailand. All this is because the Thai Government wishes to see peace established as soon as poosible in this region and if fighting continues in Cambodia, Thailand will suffer also.

Prasong on ASEAN Meeting, Philippine Trade

BK0403032694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday left for Manila, confirming that he would seek the Philippine government's view on Burma's attendance of an ASEAN meeting and also ways of enhancing trade between Thailand and the Philippines. Speaking to reporters shortly before his departure, Squadron Leader Prasong expressed confidence that the Philippines would have no objections to the idea of inviting Burma to the meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok in July.

Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia have affirmed that they would not object to Thailand extending an informal invitation in its capacity as host of the meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan is due to visit Brunei soon to sound out the opinion of the remaining ASEAN member state. But ASEAN officials have made clear that a formal invitation would require more progress in Burma and more discussion among ASEAN members.

Foreign Minister Prasong said he would also seek Manila's views on what will be the first meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum—planned for the six ASEAN states, their seven dialogue partners and five others, including China, Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea.

Bilaterally, Sqn Ldr Prasong said he would discuss ways of enhancing economic relations during talks with Philippine President Fidel Ramos. Sqn Ldr Prasong noted that the current volume of trade was relatively small—about 8,000 million baht. He suggested that countertrade might be one way of stepping up this activity. Sqn Ldr Prasong yesterday cochaired the first meeting of the Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology and tourism. He is scheduled to return from Manila tonight.

Israelis To Consult on Water, Farm Projects

BK0403034494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 94 p A7

[Text] Israel will send experts to help the Thai government solve the water crisis, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said yesterday. Speaking about his recent trip to Israel, Suphachai said he had met with a water management consultancy which had agreed to dispatch a specialist team to find solutions to the worsening water shortage in Thailand.

He said that the company was the same one which came to Thailand 7-8 years ago. But its operations stopped when the World Bank withdrew financial support for the programme. Suphachai said he also asked the Israeli government to help Thailand in agriculture, especially technology on planting crops in salty areas. "I proposed that each project should be separate from others. For example, the Chao Phya River project is one project and the Nan River another," he said.

Supachai said the cost of Israel's assistance would be based on a flexible credit system. "It is likely there will be trade between the two countries in the future," he said. Supachai also said he had discussed increasing exports to Israel since "The private sector in Israel is also interested in the proposed cooperation," he said.

Suphachai Views Trade Markets, Israeli Role

BK0403062494 Bangkok PHUCHATKAN in Thai 4 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, in his capacity as chairman of the International Competitiveness Enhancing Committee, disclosed that during its meeting yesterday the committee reviewed the first chapter of the Industry Ministry's white paper on Thailand's competitors and their trade and marketing strategies.

Suphachai quoted the white paper as saying that China, Indonesia, Mexico, and Korea are Thailand's major trade competitors. Thailand has not yet lost its market share to these countries, however, but certainly will in the future if it remains idle and makes no further improvement.

The meeting also discussed potential markets for Thai products and Thailand's dominance in different markets.

Suphachai talked about his recent visit to Israel and several issues that were discussed, particularly bilateral cooperation in third country markets. At present, Israel is the only country which has received trade privileges from the United States, the European Union, and NAFTA. Suphachai said: "Israel can send its goods to these markets without having to comply with the quota system or facing tax barriers. For this reason, Thailand will try to send its goods to those markets through Israel. By so doing, the prices of Thai exports will have to be increased by 35 percent."

Suphachai on Investment Shifts, ASEAN Trade

BK0403080994 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak reiterated the potential of Thailand in trade and investment competition as well as that of the Indochinese countries. He said that Thailand has made progress and enjoyed a 30 percent increase in its trade surplus.

Speaking about the trend of expanded foreign investment into the Indochinese market, Suphachai said this is a mechanism of competition in trade, but the Thai market is still attractive to investors. Moreover, the deputy minister notes that Thailand still needs to improve its trade and investment system in order to be able to compete with other rivals in the future.

[Begin Suphachai recording] In my opinion, among the ASEAN countries last year, Thailand had a trade surplus with ASEAN countries for the first time. It had never happened before. You cannot say we suffer disadvantages with others in ASEAN. It is impossible. Our export of goods to ASEAN countries increased by 30 percent last year. That was the first such time in history, and we also enjoyed a trade surplus. It is not the other way round, I believe. We asked a number of companies why they transferred their investment into Indochina or China. Is it because our country is not attractive or because of the appearance of new markets? Most of them said it is because they have to compete with other companies in the Chinese market, not because our market is not competitive enough. They still continue to invest in our country. Because other companies have shifted their competition to China or Indochina, they therefore have to follow suit. We have to consider these points carefully. Our expansion of exports is second to none. [end recording]

BOT Official Reviews 1993 Economic Statistics

BK0303123094 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 3 Mar 94 p 9

[Text] Phisit Li-atham, director of the Bank of Thailand [BOT] Governor's Office, has said that the increase in the country's 1993 total exports exceeded the target. The increase in the fourth quarter, in particular, was 18.8 percent, compared to an average of 13.1 percent for the whole year. The total value of 1993 exports was 922 billion baht. He attributed the rise to the economic recovery of Thailand's trading partners, especially the United States; the removal of Thailand from the U.S. Priority Foreign Country (PFC) watchlist; and the appreciation of the yen.

Phisit revealed that the total value of the country's 1993 imports was 1.143 trillion baht, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year. The value of oil imports increased slightly due to the fall in the price of crude oil. The value of non-petroleum imports was 1.0758 trillion baht, an increase of 12 percent. The target had been 11.6 percent. Meanwhile, the current account balance suffered a deficit of 2.030 trillion baht by the middle of 1993, or approximately 6.8 percent of GDP. The real deficit at year's end, however, was only 1.710 trillion baht—only 5.5 percent of GDP—30 billion below the anticipated figure.

Phisit said: "The increase in exports, coupled with the reduced current account balance deficit, might result in the readjustment of the 1993 economic growth rate and the prediction for this year."

Phisit noted that the influx of capital funds was very high. In particular, investment capital in the stock market rose seven to eight times, from 14.104 billion baht in 1992 to 118.192 billion baht in 1993. Foreigners' baht bank accounts amounted to 109.365 billion baht, up from only 55.275 billion baht the previous year. The year 1993 saw Thai private firms selling as much as 50.579 billion baht in debentures to mobilize foreign capital, up from the previous year's figure of 2.592 billion baht.

It was reported that the 7.5 percent economic growth rate calculated for 1993 has to be adjusted to 8.1 or 8.2 percent because of the increase in exports and the decline in the current account imbalance.

'Political Intimidation' Linked to Bomb Blast

BK0403031894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Key opposition leaders suspect "political intimidation" aimed at silencing them as the reason for the bomb attack on the home of Social Action Party secretary-general Bunphan Khaewatthana early yesterday. The group reached their conclusion at a luncheon meeting at Princess Hotel after a hand grenade was lobbed into the home of the former public health minister off Wiphawadi-Rangsit Highway shortly before 2 a.m.

But the allegation was immediately rejected by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai who said the Government was not involved. "I really don't know how this happened, but it is definitely not what the Opposition said," he said.

Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said: "This Government respects the basic right of people to criticise its performance," he said. "We can live with those with different opinions because our society is an open one. And we can use the same right to argue and defend ourselves. "There is no need for this government to resort to illegal means or violence. That's not the nature of this government or politicians in this government."

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Opposition and Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan, Chat Phattana [CPP] leader Chatchai Chunhawan, SAP [Social Action Party] leader Montri Phongphanit, Ratsadon leader Chaipak Siriwat, Chat Thai deputy leader Sano Thianthong, CPP secretary-general Prachuap Chaiyasan, SAP deputy leader Suwit Khunkitti and SAP secretary-general Chaloem Yubamrung.

Mr Montri, the nephew of Mr Bunphan and a resident of the same compound in Soi Panni, said he was confident the bomb attack was intended more as intimidation than actually hurting anyone. He said he had recently been pointing out the Government's shortcomings to people during the city and district council election campaign. "So this is apparently aimed at preventing the Opposition from telling the people the truth," he said. "I have thought it over and I cannot see why anyone would ever want to hurt Mr Bunphan. We finally concluded it was an act of intimidation. "But I don't know who could be behind this act because we don't have any personal problems with anyone."

Mr Montri said he respected Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. "By nature, we are political enemies. We criticise the Government because we want it to work and it must listen to us. I am really sorry. Anyone who sees what happened will know how violent it was." The politician said he and other Opposition leaders would not seek extra protection during the remaining campaign period, but would continue to inform the people of the problems in the Government.

Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem said he did not think police would be able to arrest anyone in connection with the attack. "It's just intimidation and only those who were behind it know who the perpetrators are," he said. "This kind of thing never happens to people in the Government but is frequent with Opposition members." Pol Capt Chaloem later told the BANGKOK POST at Mr Montri's home a police officer who is a younger brother of a senior official with the Prime Minister's Office and the bodyguard of a Democrat minister might be responsible for the attack because of Mr Montri's rude criticisms of Prime Minister Chuan during political activities.

SAP deputy leader Dusit Sophitcha, in a separate interview, said the bomb attack was the work of "a third hand" to distract the public attention from conflicts within the coalition.

Mr Aphisit said it was the duty of the police to find who were behind the attack and the Opposition should provide evidence if they can help investigators locate the culprits.

Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasthian called on the public to treat the Government fairly over the incident.

Decree Allows Aliens To Work in Fish Industry

BK0403034894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 94 p 8

[Text] A royal decree has been issued to allow aliens to work in the fishing industry to ease labour shortages, Deputy Labour and Social Welfare Minister Soemsak Karun said. He said the Government had also issued an order specifying steps and regulations in granting bail to foreigners who illegally enter Thailand to work in the fishing industry. The amount of bail has been reduced from 50,000 baht to 5,000 baht.

A number of Burmese have been hired to work in fishing industry, mining and construction. But most of them are illegal immigrants.

Mr Soemsak's remarks were made during the opening of a two-day seminar called "Problems and Ways to Solve the Labour Problem and Development in the Five Southernmost Provinces." The seminar ends today.

The seminar, attended by state and private officials at a meeting room of Yala Rama Hotel in Muang District, aims to find solutions to labour problems in Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala, Songkhla, and Satun.

The deputy labour minister said the Government and other state agencies concerned would try to upgrade the skills of Thai workers so that they could gain higher income.

Vietnam

Hanoi on U.S. 'Initial Steps' To Restore Ties

BK0403103794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The American WALL STREET Journal on Thursday reported that Vietnam and the United States agreed at Hanoi talks in principle to open liaison offices and to discuss the return of properties left over from the war.

Meanwhile, the United States Government on Friday said the two countries had taken initial steps to restore full diplomatic relations when the two sides agreed in principle to open liaison offices.

Singaporean Prime Minister Meetings Reported

Le Duc Anh Receives Goh

BK0403092594 Hanoi VNA in English 1721 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—President Le Duc Anh received at presidential palace here today Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on a recent official visit to Vietnam.

Speaking at the reception, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed his pleasure at his first visit to Vietnam. He highlighted the essential points in the cooperative relations between Singapore and Vietnam, and Singapore's readyness to share with Vietnam its exprienced in economic management, and cooperate with Vietnam in various fields, especially in tourism, air service, industrial zone construction, and training scientific and managing personnel. He also expressed his wish for further consolidation and development of the Vietnam-Singapore relationship.

For his part President Le Duc Anh welcomed Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's visit as a manifestation of strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Vietnamese leader reiterated Vietnam's external policy of being friends with all countries, and expressed his hope that bilateral cooperation in economic, scientific and technological fields which has been discussed in the talks between the Vietnam and Singaporean prime ministers would be further developed in the interest of the two peoples, and for peace, stability and development in the region.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam was also on hand at the reception.

Yesterday Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. During the talks, PM Kiet described P.M. Tong and his wife's official friendship visit as significant event for the fine development of the friendly relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries and for the trend for cooperation in the region.

The Vietnamese leader informed his Singaporean counterpart of the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the current renovation process, and reaffirmed Vietnam's foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and openess in the direction of diversification and multilateralization, of its relations in which special attention is given to its relationship with nations in the region. [sentence as received]

The two sides agreed that bilateral cooperation in science, technology, culture, tourism and other fields should be broadened between the two countries as they had great potential.

The Vietnamese side highly appreciated Singapore's policy to strengthen its relationship with Vietnam, particularly in the fields of economy commerce and investment, and to share experience with Vietnam.

The Singaporean side said Singapore was ready to cooperate and assist Vietnam to develop tourism, and encourage Singaporean businessmen and investors to take part in the development of Vietnam's industry.

The two sides exchanged views on how to further promote multi-sided cooperation between the two countries for development and prosperity of each country and the region as a whole.

The two sides also compared notes on international and regional issues of common concern. The Singaporean side welcomed Vietnam's accession to ASEAN as a positive contribution to the region's cooperation and prosperity.

Ministers Talk With Counterparts

BK0403090494 Hanoi VNA in English 1741 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mar 3--Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong who is here for an official friendship visit to Vietnam paid a courtesy visit to party General Secretary Do Muoi this afternoon.

The prime minister affirmed the Singaporean Government's policy to continue accelerating the cooperation and exchange of experience with Vietnam, and to encourage Singaporean businessmen to further invest in Vietnam.

General secretary Do Muoi highly valued the Singaporean Government's assistance to Vietnam in personnel training and expressed his wish that the two countries will further promote their multifaceted cooperation, especially in the field of urban planning and management, tourism development and building of industrial zone and ship building and repairing technology.

Earlier in the day Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received Singaporean Minister of Trade and Industry Yeo Cheon Tong and minister in charge of finance and transport Teo Chea Hean. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, for his part, received his singaporean counterpart.

The Singaporean delegation also met with Minister Do Quoc Sam, head of the State Planning Committee, Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, and Minister of Trade Le Van Triet.

The two sides exchanged views on important issues in order to strengthen the friendship and mutual understanding, thus contributing to the acceleration of cooperation investment, and economic-trade exchanges between the two countries in the coming time.

The minister in charge of finance and transport witnessed the signing of documents on West Lake project of straits steamship land, an economic cooperation project between the two countries in Hanoi.

Some members of the delegation called at the construction site of the West Lake regency project, a joint venture between Lian Court group of Singapore and the Housing Investment and Development Company of Vietnam.

Also today, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and his wife paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

Goh Comments on SRV in ASEAN

BK0403093494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Italicized portions are recorded in English, fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] Visiting Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong held a news conference in Hanoi on the evening of 3 March. At the conference, "Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong gave a briefing of the meetings with Vietnamese leaders at which both sides informed each other about the current situation of their country, exchanged views on issues necessary for promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding, and discussed economic, investment, and trade cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore in the period to come."

In response to a BANGKOK POST reporter's question regarding ASEAN membership for Vietnam, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said:

[Goh Chok Tong] *Singapore supports Vietnam joining ASEAN, but it should be done at the appropriate time. When that will happen depends on how Vietnam can contribute to the activities and affairs of ASEAN. I suggest that Vietnam study these programs. Vietnam is presently an observer of ASEAN, and its membership in ASEAN is only a matter of time. ASEAN opens its door to Vietnam, and only Vietnam can decide when to join.*

Answering a reporter of the Voice of Vietnam Radio who asked about the Vietnam-Singapore relations after the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam, he said:

[Goh Chok Tong] *At the moment, Singapore is Vietnam's largest trading partner, and the eighth largest investor. With the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo, we believe more American investment will come to Vietnam, not immediately, but maybe in a few years. Relations between Vietnam and Singapore have a bright future, though they only started three years ago. It was a short time, but I can affirm that our relations are excellent. Vietnam has sent many missions to Singapore to study our experience. I believe that business relations between the United States and Vietnam will also develop very well.*

Asked by a NHAN DAN reporter for his impression on his first visit to Vietnam, he said:

[Goh Chok Tong] *The visit to Vietnam reminds me of Singapore 30 years ago. I believe that Vietnam has tremendous potential for economic development. Singapore's investment in Vietnam can only develop if Vietnam achieves political stability and economic development. I believe that in the coming period, Vietnam's economy will develop strongly.*

Further on Mongolian President's Visit

Reception Held on Arrival

BK0403035094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Summary] "Dear friends: At the invitation of President Le Duc Anh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and his wife arrived in Hanoi for an official visit to Vietnam. Accompanying the president were Excellencies Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren, minister of foreign relations; (Sanin Yamborger), chairman of the parliamentary Justice Committee; Tsebegmidiyn Tsogt, minister of trade and industry; and other high-ranking Mongolian officials.

"A solemn state reception was held for the Mongolian president, his wife, and entourage at the Presidential Palace Square. Greeting the Mongolian honorable guests with President Le Duc Anh were: Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Head of the President's Office Nguyen Viet Dung; Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly's Justice Committee; and Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee. Also present were other high ranking officials and representatives of foreign missions in Hanoi."

The Mongolian president and entourage arrived at 1100 local time. He was invited by President Le Duc Anh to inspect the honor guard and meet the guests.

"After the reception ceremony, President Le Duc Anh and President Ochirbat held a friendly meeting. President Le Duc Anh delivered a speech welcoming the Mongolian president, his wife, and the other Mongolian guests to Vietnam. President Ochirbat thanked President Le Duc Anh for his invitation and for the solemn reception. The president also expressed his wish for his delegation to learn Vietnam's renovation experience through this visit."

Le Duc Anh Meets Ochirbat

BK0403091294 Hanoi VNA in English 1750 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—President Le Duc Anh today held talks with Mongolian President P. Ochirbat on a visit to Vietnam.

Speaking at the talks, President Le Duc Anh and President Ochirbat informed each other of the situation of each country, and exchanged views on measures aimed at developing the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Mongolia and the international and regional issues of common concern.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the consolidation and development of the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries and discussed measures to further promote these relations in the new situation.

The two sides agreed that an agreement on cooperation in economy, science and trade would be signed soon and will encourage and that the two sides would encourage and create favourable conditions for businessmen of the two countries to accelerate their co-operation in the forms of direct investment and joint venture.

Talking about international and regional issues, President Le Duc Anh and President Ochirbat paid much attention to the new steps of development in the Pacific Asian region, and expressed their desire to broaden the friendly and cooperative relations of mutual benefit with the countries in the region aimed at building the Asian-Pacific region into a region of peace stability, friendship and cooperation in conformity with the aspiration and fundamental and lasting interests of the peoples in the region.

The Mongolian president invited President Le Duc Anh to visit Mongolia. President Anh accepted the invitation with pleasure.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

VNA Reviews Assembly Delegation's PRC Visit

BK0303153194 Hanoi VNA in English 0614 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—The National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh during its China visit from Feb. 21 to March 1 called at Shandong, Jiangsu, and Guangdong Provinces. It was accompanied by Mr Liu Suinian member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and other senior Chinese officials.

It had working sessions with delegations of provincial people's congress organizations in Shandong, Jiangsu, and Guangdong.

In these meetings, the hosts highly appreciated achievements recorded by Vietnam during its renovation process, and expressed their wishes to strengthen the multi-sided cooperation with Vietnamese provinces, especially in the economic and trade fields.

While there, the delegation toured various industrial, agricultural, cultural, and educational establishments, and economic development zones.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his entourage hailed the Chinese people in general and people in Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangdong in particular for their persistence in building socialism, overcoming many difficulties to implement the open-door policy, and achieving important goals.

On behalf of the delegation, Chairman Nong Duc Manh extended his thanks to Chinese leaders and people for their hospitality. He also expressed gratitude for the Chinese people's effective support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for national independence and national construction, as well as his wish for the further development of the long lasting, traditional friendship between the two countries.

Commentary Reviews Ties With ASEAN Countries

BK2602160694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Comprehensive development has taken place in relations between Vietnam and the ASEAN member countries. Trade and economic ties between Vietnam and ASEAN countries have rapidly increased. In 1992, two-way trade between Vietnam and the Indonesia reached $220 million. It was $158 million with Thailand, $100 million with Malaysia, $1.2 billion with Singapore, and $50 million with the Philippines.

By the end of 1993, about 100 projects for ASEAN countries with invested capital of hundreds of millions of dollar were licensed in Vietnam. ASEAN investment in Vietnam has increased 10 times as against 1990, now accounting for 10 percent of the total foreign investment in Vietnam. More than 30 agreements on economic, scientific and technical, trade, payment, credit, aviation, and navigation have been signed between ASEAN countries and Vietnam.

In late July last year, the State Committee for Foreign Investment of Vietnam signed an agreement of cooperation with a prime company of Brunei which will see the latter invests in major projects in Vietnam. In late 1991 and early 1992, the Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited all six ASEAN member countries. This helped the region to have a better understanding about the current reform in this country.

In visiting Vietnam, all leaders of ASEAN member countries demonstrated sympathy with the problems and difficulties Vietnam has been confronting, and promised to share experiences with the Vietnamese in national development.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai of Thailand is committed to create favorable conditions for further multi-sided cooperation between Vietnam and his country. President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines has assured Vietnamese National Assembly chairman Nong Duc Manh that the Philippines has always been Vietnam's friend, and hoped that bilateral ties would be further developed. It is the common voice of leaders and people of ASEAN member countries.

Most recently, during his visit to Vietnam, the ASEAN secretary general, Mr. Ajit Singh, informed Vietnam of the decision by ASEAN Secretariat to allow Vietnam to participate and observe in various programs in science, technology, environment, culture, information, public health, tourism, and development sources. Mr. Ajit

Singh said the secretariat will send senior officials to Vietnam to exchange views on concrete issues of ASEAN's concern.

These developments show how much bilateral and multi-sided cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN member countries has been increasing. At the recent foreign ministerial conference held in Singapore by ASEAN, ASEAN countries appreciated Vietnam's achievements in its renovation process, and welcomed Vietnam's participation in a forum on regional security. Relations between Vietnam and ASEAN has created a new atmosphere in Southeast Asia.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed once declared that he would be glad to contribute to national reconstruction and economic development in Indochina, with the confidence that Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia would be stable and developed. It would contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Chea Sim Visit, Meetings With Leadership Noted

Welcomed on Arrival

BK0203151194 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A delegation from Cambodia's National Assembly [NA] led by its chairman, Samdech Chea Sim, arrived here this morning as guest of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. The delegation was welcomed at an official ceremony held at the presidential palace by Chairman Nong Duc Manh, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy, Chairman of the NA Council of Nationalities Y Ngong Niek Dam, head of the NA Commission for External Relations Hoang Bich Son, and Deputy Foreign Minister Trang Quang Co.

Cambodian Charge d'Affaires Chhong Toeun was also on hand.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairman Nong Duc Manh said that the visit would contribute to the promotion of the two countries' in the coming period.

For his part, Samdech Chea Sim stressed that the first visit to foreign countries of a delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia is to Vietnam, expressing the great significance in the two countries' relationship. He said he hoped that after the visit, the relations between the two legislative bodies would have more chances for further cooperation.

Talks With Nong Duc Manh

BK0203153694 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly [NA] led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh held talks here this afternoon with a visiting delegation of the Cambodian National Assembly led by Chairman Samdech Chea Sim.

Speaking at the talks, the two chairmen informed each other of the activities of the two legislative bodies, the socio-economic situation of the two countries and international and regional issues of common concern. The two sides also exchanged views on important issues in order to strengthen the friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two NA, the two peoples, thus contributing to peace, development and cooperation in the region.

In the evening, Chairman Manh gave a banquet in honour of Samdech Chea Sim and his party.

Leaders Receive Delegation

BK0403090294 Hanoi VNA in English 1747 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—General Secretary Do Muoi received here this afternoon a visiting delegation of the Cambodian National Assembly [NA] led by Chairman Samdech Chea Sim.

Speaking to his guests, General Secretary Do Muoi considered the visit as a significant event in the building and development of the neighbourly and friendly relations and the multifaceted cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia in the interests of the two peoples, for peace, stability, friendship development and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole.

General Secretary Do Muoi affirmed that now as before Vietnam has always done their best to build and consolidate the traditional friendly and neighborly relations between the two peoples and to support the Cambodian people's efforts to build a peaceful, independent, nonaligned and friendly country with all countries, especially neighbouring.

On this occasion General Secretary Do Muoi and the Cambodian NA delegation to convey his regards to Cambodian head of state Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. [sentence as received]

Chairman Samdech Chea Sim, for his part, informed General Secretary Do Muoi of the results of the talks held between the two legislative bodies. He expressed his deep gratitude to Vietnam's positive contributions to the process of peace and reconciliation in Cambodia.

Also this afternoon, Samdech Chea Sim was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The NA chairman of Cambodia informed Mr. Kiet of the present situation in Cambodia and brought out the Cambodian people's determination to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, thus continuing to take the revolutionary cause to stable and developed status.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the delegation visit as a significant event, and manifestation of the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia. He affirmed that the Government and people of Vietnam have always supported the efforts of the National Assembly, Government and people of Cambodia in their national construction.

Center for Japanese Study Established in Hanoi

BK0403153494 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—The Centre for Japan Study made its first public appearance here yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Prof. Dr. Nguyen Duy Quy, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and director of the National Centre for Social Science and Humanities, Hiroyuki Yushita, Japanese ambassador, and others. The Centre for Japan Study, under the National Centre for Social Science and Humanities, will conduct studies on Japan's history, economy, socio-polititics, culture and language with a view to providing scientific basis for the state to make domestic and foreign policies. The centre's establishment marked a new step of development in the relations between Vietnam and Japan.

Le Duc Anh Receives Britain's Princess Anne

BK0403080594 Hanoi VNA in English 1729 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—President Le Duc Anh received here today the British Princess Royal Princess Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise on visit to Vietnam. [sentence as received]

The princess introduced president Le Duc Anh activities in Vietnam of the Save the Children Fund (SCF) of which and expressed her belief that she is president her current visit to Vietnam would help her in coming welfare projects on supporting Vietnamese women and children. [sentence as received]

For his part, President Le Duc Anh thanked the princess, the government, humanitarian organizations and people of Britain for their practical assistance to Vietnam, especially to women and children. He expressed his confidence that the princess's visit to Vietnam would contribute to promoting the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples.

President Le Duc Anh clearly pointed out that though meeting with any difficulties, the Vietnamese Government has always attached great attention to the people's life in general and women and children's life in particular.

Also this morning Princess Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Speaking to his guest, the prime minister highly appreciated the British Government's efforts in accelerating the economic cooperation between the two countries and expressed his thanks to the positive assistance of the Save the Children Fund humanitarian organizations of the U.K. to Vietnamese women, children and people.

Princess Anne Elizabeth expressed her and the fund's concern in promoting assistance to other countries, including Vietnam, first of all to children. She also expressed her hope that with 75 years' experience, the Save the Children Fund will effectively help Vietnamese children.

The Save the Children/UK began working in Vietnam in 1966, supporting a children's hospital, providing sponsorships for children of poor families establishing a convalescent home and a training centre for widows. Since then SCF has provided financial assistance to various indigenous organisations and emergency relief assistance to different localities in Vietnam. A number of development projects funded by SCF have been developed successfully in Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Thanh Hoa Provinces.

In the 1994-95 fiscal year, SCF plans to fund 1.1 million pounds in Vietnam covering various projects. These include primary health care, health financing, medical schools, agro-forestry infrastructure, credit and income generation, disaster management and social development. The projects are sited throughout Vietnam, in Hanoi, Haiphong, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Ho Chi Minh City.

SCF has established close links with its Vietnamese partners in the localities concerned and enjoys the support of the Vietnamese central offices which has facilitates SCF's work in the country. [sentence as received]

Commentary Views Princess Anne Visit, UK Aid

BK0303144494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] British Princess Anne arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday, beginning a visit to Vietnam as a guest of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. This is the first visit to Vietnam by the British princess, which will help promote relations between Vietnam and Great Britain. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam gave a banquet in honor of the British princess. The princess sponsors many charity and humanitarian organizations in Great Britain. She visited and conducted many humanitarian activities in Third World countries in Africa, in the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia. In June 1987, she was promoted to royal princess by the Queen.

Vietnam and Britain have a long-standing relationship. The visit to the United Kingdom in June and July last year by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet opened up a new stage in cooperative ties. When chairing the European Community, Great Britain made an active contribution to promoting trade relations between the

EC and Vietnam. Now more and more British organizations are doing business in Vietnam, including Oil Giant BP. During Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to the United Kingdom, Prime Minister John Major committed to grant Vietnam development aid and financial assistance for the reintegration of returnees program. He also considered delay in Vietnam's debts. Great Britain also committed to help Vietnam train pilots and open a stock market, as well as other areas proposed by Vietnam in which Britain has much experience. Vietnam and Britain will sign an agreement on investment encouragement and protection and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. A representative office of the Commonwealth of the United Kingdom of Great Britain [as heard] has been open in Hanoi, which was catalyzed cooperation between the two countries.

It is hoped that the visit by British Princess Anne will promote Vietnam-Britain relations.

City Government Orders Bishop To Renounce Post

BK0403060194 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] HANOI, March 4 (AFP)—Vietnam has warned a Roman Catholic bishop to stop his "illegal activities" and step down from a senior church post in Ho Chi Minh City as his appointment was not approved by the government, a report said Friday. The Ho Chi Minh City municipal government issued a statement saying that Huynh Van Nghi's appointment as a supervising bishop was "unilateral, improper and without consultation with the Vietnamese government."

Vietnam has rejected Nghi's appointment to the supervisory post, saying he should be given the more senior position of deputy and successor to the southern city's ailing archibishop in place of another priest who is a nephew of a former South Vietnamese president. City officials have denounced what they called "a Vatican plot" to have Bishop Nguyen Van Thuan, the nephew of former president Ngo Dinh Diem, become the next archbishop of Ho Chi Minh City in place of Nghi. The row has been at the centre of tensions between Hanoi and the Vatican over the appointment of priests to top posts, as the government here has insisted that it has the right to veto any selections.

Despite a warning last year to stop acting as supervising bishop, Nghi had continued in the job, prompting the city's People's Committee to call in the priest "to point out to him his infringement," the statement said. "The laws cannot be continuously ignored," the statement said, according to a report in the Saigon Giai Phong newspaper.

Thuan was originally appointed deputy archbishop before the communists took over the then Saigon in 1975. He was not allowed to take up the post and has been in exile in Rome since 1992. The Vatican however is insisting that Thuan should eventually take over from the octogenarian Archbishop Nguyen Van Thuan, who is in poor health.

In an interview with a Catholic newspaper published this week, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said the dispute with the Vatican centred on Vietnam's "national sovereignty" and ruled out a compromise on the choice of clergy. Kiet also defended his insistence that priests join a government umbrella organisation for social groups and religions, saying the authorities had the right to prevent religious problems arising.

The Church's development here under French colonial rule and Pope John Paul II's stand against communism have fuelled government suspicions of Catholics, who number around seven million people, or 10 percent of the population. Vatican officials have accused Vietnam of trying to turn Asia's second largest Catholic community after the Philippines into a state-sponsored church outside of the control of the normal church hierachy.

Protests by Buddhists in several cities have added to government concerns that a relaxation of controls on religion in recent years may lead to social unrest.

Do Muoi Addresses All-Army Midterm Conference

BK0403153694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi attended and gave an address at the all-army midterm conference of party organizations this morning.

In the first part of his address, Comrade Do Muoi emphasized the following three points:

1. We must thoroughly understand the resolution of the recent midterm national party conference. We use the working class stance as a base to examine the situation. By doing so, we will be able to see more clearly that the entire revolutionary line of our party faithfully reflects the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Ho Chi Minh Thought, the law of evolution of history, and the desire of the laboring people and all the oppressed people. That is why we must resolve to struggle against all distorting allegations and must properly apply and develop the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Ho Chi Minh Thought under the new situation in Vietnam.

2. Our party is the party of the working class. It faithfully represents the interest of the working class, the laboring people, and the nation as a whole.

3. Far from being abstract notions, the ideas of liberating the nation, liberating the classes, and making the people masters of their own country have been translated into life by our party in a very copious and vivid fashion. This has brought about realistic benefits for the people such as making peasants the owners of the pieces of land which they till, workers the owners of the factories in which they work, and the laboring people the owners of

their means of production. We have encouraged the people to enrich themselves legally along with efforts to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty, carry out the motto of building a powerful country and a prosperous people, and ensure the all-people great unity bloc.

The resolution of the mid-term national party conference and other resolutions of the Seventh Party Central Committee's plenums have been institutionalized into laws and substantive policies. These are essential issues which the comrade general secretary asked the military delegates to firmly grasp when they study to fully understand the resolution of the midterm national party conference.

Comrade Do Muoi went on by pointing out successes scored by our country over the past a little more than two years in implementing the renovation policy set forth by the Seventh Party Congress. He also emphasized two essential points needed for socioeconomic development in our country:

1. We must effect a change in the economic structure, redistribute our work force, and socialize our production process intensively and extensively in order to mobilize to the fullest all social resources for development. This is to create a groundwork for steady development with high results for the entire national economy.

2. Industrialization must be linked with modernization by fundamentally carrying out gradual technological renovation, by seizing opportunities to shorten our development process, and by shaping spearhead movements to acquire the high standards of science and technology in the world.

At this conference, the comrade general secretary cited the many great achievements scored by the armed forces. He said that they have firmly defended the fatherland while effectively engaging in economic construction. Together with the entire party and people, they have helped foil all the peaceful evolution strategy-related schemes of hostile forces.

Touching on the duty of the armed forces toward the cause of building and defending the fatherland in the period ahead, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said:

Various party organizations and command echelons must concentrate on making the armed forces strong politically, ideologically, and organizationally. These things can be used as a foundation to increase integrated qualities and militancy. We must firmly grasp the enemies' schemes, together with the people in various localities, to maintain the initiative in defense under all circumstances. We must continue to step up building an all-people national defense and must effect a profound change in the thinking of each party cadre and member and of the people regarding the enemies' schemes in order to defend the fatherland and safeguard our party, state, and regime. We must ensure technical equipment for the armed forces and must increase party leadership and state management over the cause of national defense and security.

In the period ahead, we must carry out the system of leadership by the party and operational management by the state in a more close-knit and proper fashion. Various party committees and the party-youth union cadre affairs sections of various state organs must clearly realize their functions and duty to provide leadership and guidance in the field of national defense and security.

Various government ministries and sectors must clearly reaffirm and satisfactorily carry out their state management functions in terms of national defense and security.

The Ministries of National Defense and Interior must clearly reafirm their state management functions. They must act as an advisory body for the party and the state while directly exercising their state management functions in accordance with their assigned duty and powers.

Doan Khue Addresses Conference

BK0303140394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The all-army midterm conference of party organizations was solemnly opened in Hanoi today, 1 March.

In attendance were Comrade Ha Dang, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department; Comrade Nguyen Van An, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the party Central Committee's Organization Department; Comrade Phan Dien, member of the party Central Committee and director of the office of the party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Thi Xuan My, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the party Central Committee's Inspection Department; and 183 delegates from various party organizations in the enitre armed forces.

Also present were representatives of various press agencies, radio and television stations inside and outside the armed forces, and specialists from certain party Central Committee organs.

After the national anthem was played, Senior General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and deputy secretary of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, and minister of national defense, delivered an opening speech.

[Begin Doan Khue recording] Dear the meeting presidium: In compliance with the party statute and a party Central Committee Secretariat directive, the all-army midterm conference of party organizations is due to open today. The conference will be in session for four days, from 1-4 March 1994.

Although it is not a congress, the all-army midterm conference of party organizations is very important as it is designed to thoroughly study the resolution of the midterm national party congress, review efforts to provide guidance for the implementation of the national defense tasks over the past two and a half years, and determine the course of action, tasks, and an action program for the next two years—1994 and 1995—to, together with the entire people, implement the party congress resolutions successfully and move the country's renovation process toward new, greater successes. [end recording]

Afterward, on behalf of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, Comrade Doan Khue delivered a political report with some suggestions. He asked the conference to concentrate on thoroughly studying the party Central Committee's political report at the midterm national party congress. His report contains two parts with the first part evaluating the implementation of the Seventh Party Congress resolution and the second part discussing the orientations, tasks, and targets for the remaining period of the term of office of the Seventh Party Central Committee.

In the first part, after outlining the international and domestic situations, Comrade Doan Khue pointed out three major achievements that consist of:

1. Having overcome by an important step the socioeconomic crisis.

2. Having been able to continue to maintain and consolidate political stability.

3. Having broadened foreign relations, improved the prestige and position of our country in the world, and created favorable international environment for the cause of national construction and defense. Our achievements scored in the renovation process have further generated the people's elation and confidence in the party leadership and created more strength and stature for our national revolution to continue to make headway.

As for weaknesses and resulting problems, after pointing out the weaknesses in the economic, cultural, and social domains, his report also mentions a number of weaknesses directly related to national defense tasks. For instance: Although political stability has been firmly maintained, there still exist numerous complex factors we cannot ignore. Many party and state organizations have failed to build themselves into clean and steadfast organizations. Political security has not been firmly maintained, and public order and safety have not been guaranteed.

Judging from advantages and difficulties, Comrade Doan Khue's political report arrives at an important conclusion that although there still exist numerous weaknesses to be overcome, those important achievements scored have been, and are creating premises with which to shift the country to a new stage of development—the stage in which we move toward national industrialization and modernization. These premises involve a series of factors, both strength and stature, both material and spiritual needs, and those economic, political, social, and cultural factors at home and abroad. These are a particularly important issue and also a new, striking point of the situation, and a development of the policy set forth by the Seventh Party Congress.

Regarding the orientations, tasks, and targets for the remaining period of the term of office of the Seventh Party Central Committee, after discussing great challenges and opportunities for the entire party, people, and armed forces, Comrade Doan Khue pointed out the overall targets that call for motivating the entire party, people, and armed forces to be of the same heart and mind, to exert their extraordinary effort to uphold their sense of independence, sovereignty, and self reliance, to broaden international cooperation, to practice the motto of industry, thrift, integrity, righteousness, public dedication, and detachment, to exploit advantages, dispel dangers, overcome ordeals, successfully achieve the overall targets already set, and accelerate the pace of achieving those targets set forth in the strategy for economic stabilization and development until the year 2000 in a bid to build a propserous people and an equal and civilized society.

To achieve these targets, his politial report points out eight essential tasks for the period ahead as follows:

—effecting a change in the economic structure toward industrialization and modernization.
—consistently carrying out the policy on multisectoral economic development.
—uniformly building a market mechanism under the state management along the socialist path.
—taking good care of cultural and social issues.
—strengthening national defense and security.
—continuing to broaden foreign economic relations.
—building a law-govering Vietnamese state of the people, by the people, and for the people.
—carrying out party renovation and rectification.

Dealing with the task of strengthening national defense and security, Comrade Doan Khue said:

[Begin Doan Khue recording] Against a situation where the enemy force is conspiring to intensify their sabotage activities on a large scale, we must attach importance to national defense and security and must satisfactorily perform our duty of defending our fatherland and our national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and firmly maintaining political and social stability and the course of socialist development.

We must undertake a universal, all-out, and long-term struggle in all fields of activity to foil the schemes and actions of hostile forces in their peaceful evolution strategy and their rebellious and subversive attempts. [end recording]

The all-army midterm conference of party organizations will continue its discussions designed to thoroughly understand those essential issues in the political report of the midterm national party conference.

The conference will continue in session until 4 March.

Vu Oanh Article on National Unity, Part 1

BK0203135994 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Feb 94 p 3

[First of three installments of an article by Political Bureau member Vu Oanh: "Great National Unity in the New Situation and Tasks"]

[Text] On 17 November 1993, the Political Bureau issued a resolution on promoting great national unity and strengthening the unified national front. Keeping the entire party and people thoroughly informed of the essential points of this resolution and transforming the resolution into life now constitute an urgent and essential demand.

Great national unity is a highly valuable tradition our people have followed during their history of national construction and defense. The Political Bureau resolution says: "Taking up and developing this tradition right from its founding, our party has always paid attention to strengthening and broadening the universal national unity bloc; developing national strength; and combining national strength with international, traditional, and contemporary strengths. It is because of this that the party won many great victories during the struggle for the independence of the fatherland and the freedom and happiness of the people.

It is thanks to the promotion of great national unity during the struggle for national independence, construction, and defense that our party—since assuming its leadership role over a half century ago—has led our people to one victory after another. Yet this tradition has not been promoted in certain localities and at certain times. This is why the revolution has had to cope with many difficulties. This is the lesson learned from the reality of the revolution.

If we are united, we will be able to overcome any difficulties in any revolution, regardless of how hard they may be. If we are divided, we will go bust. This is a great lesson of experience that is illustrated by the following quotation by Great President Ho Chi Minh: "Unity, unity, great unity; success, success, great success."

Part One

The Party's Renovation Policy and the Great National Unity as Seen in the Past

In the situation where the party is the ruling party, its role in the great national unity bloc is a decisive factor. Since the liberation of the south and the unification of the country, our country has been faced with a profoundly changing domestic and world situation. This has created new opportunities and new challenges in the cause of defending the Vietnamese fatherland.

Under such circumstances, our party has enjoyed great advantages. As noted in the resolution of the eight party Central Committee's eight plenum: "Founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, the Communist Party of Vietnam led our people to fight as a united body. This made it possible for the August Revolution; the war of resistance for national independence, freedom, and unification; and the struggle for national construction and defense to achieve successes and become successful.

"These achievements were the result of the following factors: The party had a correct political line. It had support from the people and a contingent of party cadres and members who, during the fight, associated themselves closely with the people.

"The close relationship between the party and the people has become a source of strength and a very valuable tradition of the Vietnamese revolution."

Entering the new revolutionary stage, the party has promptly detected and corrected the mistakes in its political leadership. Only a few years after the liberation of the south and the unification of the country, the sixth party Central Committee's 10th plenum, held in October 1979, criticized the system of bureaucratic and subsidy-based centralism. It advocated building a multi-component economy, with South Vietnam having five economic components, to enable production to flourish from the grass roots.

Based on the guiding thought of the party Central Committee's sixth plenum resolution, the party Central Committee (fourth and fifth terms) has formulated a series of lines and policies aimed at fulfilling various set tasks. These include Directive No. 100 on the end-product contractual system for laborers in agricultural cooperatives (January, 1981); Directive No. 35 on implementing and developing the family economy; Directive No. 29 on allocation of land and forests to cooperatives and households; Directive No. 65 on developing the sea and coastal economy; Government Decree No. 25-CP on granting autonomy to state-run enterprises; and so forth. Afterward, the sixth and seventh national party congresses set forth new, fundamental, and comprehensive lines and policies to build the market-based multisectoral economy under state management and expand and diversify diplomatic activities. This was followed by party Central Committee Political Bureau Resolution No. 10 on renovating the management mechanism for agriculture, and many other resolutions of the sixth and seventh party Central Committees. All of these are aimed at consistently carrying out the renovation process from the higher down to the lower levels, in order to unleash the labor force and further strengthen the people's right to mastery.

In implementing the renovation process, at certain times we have faced acute difficulties within the party as well as among the people. We have also experienced clashes between the conservative and renovation concepts. Because our people's creativity and dynamism—especially that of the peasants—has been condensed and formulated into national lines and policies by our party, however, we have overcome numerous difficulties and ordeals. We have also been able to combine the "party concept with the people's feeling," thus creating a vigorous driving force for developing the rural areas and agriculture and resolving the most fundamental issues; namely, the peasants' rights to use the land and the laborers' rights to ownership in production and distribution. This has motivated tens of million of peasants to participate in the implementation of party policies for their own benefit, thus revitalizing the potential of land and labor, promoting our people's diligent characteristics, and producing remarkable economic results.

For instance, the grain shortage and the import surplus were two acutely difficult issues that we failed to overcome, despite great efforts over many years. Yet since early 1981, the first year we implemented agricultural renovation, we have achieved an unprecedented pace of development in this regard.

The gross grain production output during the 1976-80 period was 13.3 million tonnes, an average increase of 200,000 tonnes annually. During the 1981-88 period, however, gross grain output was 17.5 million tonnes, an increase of 810,000 tonnes. During the 1989-92 period, the output was 22.2 million tonnes, an increase of 1.5 million tonnes, while gross grain production output in 1992 and 1993 was 24.5 million tonnes annually. The export value also increased from $700 million during the 1976-80 period to almost $2 billion at present.

The rapid increase in grain production output and export value has created favorable conditions for other economic sectors. Animal husbandry, industrial crops, forestry, and maritime products have developed remarkably, thus stabilizing and improving people's daily lives, especially in rural areas. This has contributed to helping the country overcome very dangerous ordeals while consistently implementing the renovation process.

Against the background of the complicated international situation that greatly effected global stability, the United States continued its trade embargo against our country. After the war, our country faced numerous difficulties as a result of its consequences. We also experienced difficulties caused by past mistakes in formulating our lines and policies. As a result, our renovation undertaking calls for efforts to overcome difficulties while correcting our mistakes. We have, nevertheless, made the above-mentioned achievements. This is testimony to the fact that our party's renovation line is correct and our revolution is advancing in the right direction of maintaining national independence and ensuring freedom and happiness for our people in accordance with the socialist orientation.

Our country, however, is still rife with many difficulties and shortcomings.

As far as the socialist reformation and construction process is concerned, our party committed mistakes due to haste, dogmatism, and voluntarism. It did not pay due attention to the laws governing the formulation of action programs, failed to take into account the fact that ours is an agriculturally backward country with a predominantly small-scale production, and belittled efforts to make use of the strengths created by the tradition of great solidarity to formulate correct policies and lines. Prompted by the desire to quickly get rid of all other economic sectors, including the individual economic sector, and retain only the socialist and semisocialist economic sector, it eliminated a substantial number of talents and inviduals with wisdom and skills who can be used to serve the national construction and defense goals.

In implementing the party-initiated renovation line, our people have scored initial yet very important results. Nonetheless, the national economy still depends entirely on agriculture. The scale of industrial production remains small, and material and technical bases are not enormous in size. The level of economic efficiency is very low. There still remains enormous budget overspending and substantial foreign debt. Many people are unemployed or underemployed. Corruption, smuggling, and extravagance continue to develop seriously and in a complicated manner.

Only slow efforts have been made to renovate the state and cooperative economies. Though the private economy has developed, its growth rate is not high enough. The lives of the people, especially ethnic minority people in high altitude regions and remote areas, are still rife with many difficulties. The pace of renovation and consolidation of the political system is slow. Party members and the people still do not display a truly firm ideological stance. The situation concerning political stability and social security and order is not good.

Our nation is still listed as one of the poor countries in the world. The gross domestic product per capita is much lower than that of many countries in the region, and the average annual growth rate is even slower. The danger of lagging further behind compared to many countries in the region has exerted an adverse impact on employment, living conditions, the people's confidence in and support for our regime, and national security and defense capabilities... Meanwhile, many hostile forces are trying by all means to undermine our people's revolutionary undertaking.

Over the recent past, our party has made due efforts to resolve social problems. Nonetheless, there are still many shortcomings and difficulties which, in turn, have exerted a not-too-slight impact on the people's idelogical and political singlemindedness. Now that the national economy has effected changes for the better and the new mechanism has created favorable conditions for resolving social problems, let's ensure social justice through the distribution of production means and let's combine this move with efforts to adjust the income distribution system. It is necessary to create conditions for everyone (by means of land allotment, selling of shares, contracting, bank loans...) so they can earn their living, enrich themselves, and bring about prosperity in society. Nonetheless, economic development and the application of a new mechanism alone cannot provide solutions to all problems. We should try to resolve social problems according to the party's policy on human resources development under which the human factor is regarded not only as the target of but also the motive behind the national defense and construction cause. At the same time, we face a series of major social problems that have reached an alarming level both in the short and long terms. They include the deterioration of educational, public health, and cultural services and the growing development of illiteracy, school dropouts, diseases, moral degradation, corruption, and smuggling, thereby causing our efforts to cope with challenges to become more difficult and complicated.

Given the new development stage of the revolution, the party's leadership skills, the political background and singlemindedness of all party members, and the moral ethics of cadres and party members constitute the preliminary conditions for rallying the entire people around the party.

Thoughout history, our party recorded a very glorious achievement by providing leadership for national liberation and fatherland protection. In recent years, the party has quickly initiated the renovation line and led the reform undertaking, gaining important initial victories. However, in the new situation, it has shown weaknesses in keeping par with the revolution's current requirements. Moreover, the government's management role from the central to local and grassroots levels governments has been far too low for the demand, despite its successes in building a law-governed state of the people, by the people, and for the people; in enforcing the law; in improving foreign affairs work; and in controlling inflation and prices.

Mass organizations have been relatively quick in developing their economic, scientific, social, and professional associations to meet the new situation and duties. Traditional organizations have exerted many efforts to broaden democracy and reform their structure and working methoda. They, however, are still more or less in a vicious circle of stagnation, inflexibility, and disparity, especially at the grassroots level where the systems of mass organizations have not really been integrated and taken root in the grassroots and the public....

Since the party became a ruling party in the entire nation, particularly since the country entered its renovation, the socioeconomy has been moving and progressing very quickly; international relations have been changing; the party's contact with current affairs and social realities has not been renovated quickly and accordingly; and the political and moral degradation in some cadres and party members has brought about serious effects to the party's fighting spirit and reputation. The party has not thoroughly understood the people. The people have not really become attached to the party. Lower level cadres do not dare tell the truth to higher cadres. The atmosphere of democracy and fair discussion to discover the truth has been limited. The principle of democratic centralism, which is the party's vitality, has not been maintained. The practice of bureaucracy and authoritarianism has existed together with the devils of indiscipline, sectionalism, and clannishness. In many places, the party's internal fighting has been very weak and the clarification of correctness and incorrectness has been prolonged to an extent that clarification becomes impossible.

If the party, state, and mass organizations do not improve their knowledge and if their management is not corrected to make them cleaner and stronger, there will be difficulties in gathering the intellectual essence from the party, the national, and the current world, leading to the weakening of their attraction to the public.

This situation arises for different reasons. But the most fundamental reason that needs to be clarified and corrected is that the party has not been absolutely correct in defining its relations with the national political system and with society in the new revolutionary condition, situation, and duties.

From a party of the workers' class leading the revolution to seize power and protect the government, our party has become a ruling party in the entire nation. It is leading the undertaking of national construction and protection in a multisectoral economy with a market mechanism with state management; with the government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and with the broadening and diversifying of multilateral international relations. This special characteristic requires the party to combine the strength of the workers' class with national strength, national strength with international strength, and traditional strength with temporary strength. The liberation of the workers' class must be preceded by national liberation. The settlement of sectional interests must be in harmony with national interests. The party's goal and duty must be the goal of all society as well.

Therefore, the party must be renovated. The party must lead the revolution. It must be a party of the workers' class and represent the interest of the workers' class and the national interest. It must be the vanguard team of the workers' class and the nation as well (with no sexual discrimination and not standing above the nation). It must place national interest above everything else to unite people of all strata and religions for the implementation of President Ho Chi Minh's spirit of the great national unity and to create a strong force for "the construction of a Vietnam of peace, unification, independence, democracy, and prosperity" (from President Ho Chi Minh's Testament).

Correction: Spokesman on U.S. Property Talks

BK0203124194

The following correction pertains to the 2 Mar 94 East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 41, column two under the "Vietnam" subheading, headlined "Spokesman on 'Positive' U.S. Property Talks": The sourceline of the item should read BK0203092094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 2 Mar 94 (correcting source)

Australia

Minister Opposes Sending Troops to Bosnia

BK0403063694 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Summary From Poor Reception] The United States has ignored an appeal by two United Nations officials in Bosnia for the deployment there of additional troops. Yasushi Akashi, a UN representative in Bosnia, also joined the debate on sending 10,000 more troops to Bosnia. Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray says he opposed sending troops to Bosnia. Ray said the government requires certain conditions to be met before it can consider sending any soldiers.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

Calls on West To Press Serbs

NC0303191494 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1118 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Canberra, Mar. 3 (A.A.)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said that as long as the west continues putting pressure on teh Serbians, peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be established soon. After concluding his three-day official visit to New Zealand, Cetin arrived in Australia on Wednesday.

Speaking to the press on the situation in the Balkans, Cetin said that any decision which was not based on political will and power will not be effective. He said that NATO and the U.N. Security Council should clearly give an ultimatum that further aggressions will not be tolerated. "The Bosnian tragedy showed that unless there is a power behind your decisions, no one will listen to you," he said. "Now, a new world disorder prevails in our region, instead of a new world order." Cetin stressed that Europe had failed to maintain peace in the Balkans. "The agreement reached between the Croats and Bosnians is an indication which gives us hope," he said. "A solution seems to be very near if the world applies pressure."

Cetin and his Australian counterpart Gareth Evans held official talks afterward. An extradition agreement was signed at the end of the talks. Cetin was received by Australian governor Bill Hayden and Prime Minister Paul Keating. Evans hosted a dinner for Cetin in the evening. Cetin was welcomed with a ceremony befitting heads of states, in Australia. [passage omitted]

Signs Extradition Agreement

TA0303155494 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1300 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that if the world, supported by a military force, puts pressure on the Serbs then peace can be achieved in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the near future.

Cetin, who is in Australia, has concluded his contacts in Canberra. Prior to his official talks in Canberra, Cetin visited the Ataturk monument in the city. He laid a wreath and paid his respects. He also laid a wreath at the unknown Australian soldier monument and paid his respects. He later visited the Gelibolu [Gallipoli] section of the Australian war monument. Cetin then paid a call on his Australian counterpart Gareth Evans. After the meeting, the two foreign ministers led the Turkish and Australian delegations at the official talks. An extradition agreement was signed after the official talks.

Cetin and Evans later held a joint news conference. In a statement at the news conference, Cetin said that bilateral and regional relations were taken up at the official talks and that developments in the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East were discussed within this framework. Pointing out that Turkey has an important and central position among Europe, Middle East, the Black Sea and Central Asia, Evans concluded by saying that bilateral relations will be further increased.

Meets Foreign Minister Evans

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[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that peace can be established in Bosnia-Herzegovina if the world resolutely puts pressure on the Serbs, pressure backed by military force. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin laid a wreath at Ataturk's monument in Canberra. He also laid a wreath at the unknown soldier monument and visited the Gallipoli section of the war monument in that city. Later he began his official contacts and called on Foreign Minister Gareth Evans. The delegations of the two countries then held official talks. An agreement was signed on the exchange of criminals between the two countries. Hikmet Cetin and Gareth Evans later held a joint news conference. Cetin disclosed that bilateral and regional issues, including the developments in the Balkan region, the Caucasus, and the Middle East, were discussed in the official talks.

Gareth Evans described Turkey as an important country lying between Europe, the Middle East, the Black Sea, and Central Asia, and he stressed that the political and economic relations between Turkey and Australia will be promoted and maintained.